OMAMORI HIMARI 7.

MILAN MATRA

7
OMAMORI HIMARI

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

YUUTO

THE HERO OF THIS STORY. HE'S YOUR TYPICAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT HE'S THE CURRENT DEMON SLAYER OF THE "AMAKAWA FAMILY," ONE OF TWELVE SUCH FAMILIES. ON CHRISTMAS DAY, HE FINALLY MADE UP HIS MIND TO FULFILL HIS DEMON-SLAYER DUTIES.

HIMARI

A CAT AYAKASHI WHO SUDDENLY APPEARED BEFORE YUUTO TO SERVE AS HIS BODYGUARD. SHE HAS ENGRAVED YUUTO'S RESOLUTION TO BE A DEMON SLAYER INTO HER HEART BUT WONDERS HOW HE WILL MANAGE IT.

HITSUGI YAKOUIN

THE CURRENT HEAD OF THE YAKOUIN FAMILY, ONE OF THE TWELVE DEMON-SLAYER FAMILIES. SHE'S A SELF-PROCLAIMED BEAUTIFUL PSYCHIC DETECTIVE.

RINKO

YUUTO'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND. SHE'S LOOKED AFTER YUUTO LIKE A SIBLING SINCE SHE WAS LITTLE, BUT EVER SINCE HIMARI SHOWED UP, SHE'S STARTED SEEING HIM MORE AS A "MAN."

TAMA (THE FAIR NINE-TAILED FOX)

ONE OF JAPAN'S TOP THREE DEMONS, THOUGH STILL ONLY FRAGMENTED. SHE'S WORKING WITH SHUTEN-DOUJI TO EAT AYAKASHI WHILE KEEPING AN EYE ON HIMARI AND COMPANY.

KUESU JINGUUJI

HEIRESS TO ONE OF THE TWELVE DEMON-SLAYER FAMILIES, THE JINGUUJI, AND YUUTO'S BETROTHED. SHE IS INSTRUCTED TO QUELL THE TROUBLE THAT NINE-TAILS AND SHUTEN ARE STIRRING UP.

SHIZUKU

AN AYAKASHI WHO MANIPULATES WATER. SHE TRACKED DOWN A DESCENDANT OF THE JIBASHIRI FAMILY THAT MASSACRED HER CLAN AND FELL INTO AN ABYSS OF BLIND RAGE BUT WAS SAVED BY YUUTO'S WORDS AND GOT HER SENSES BACK.

LIZLET L. CHELSIE

LIZ FOR SHORT, THIS YOUNG GIRL WORKS AT THE CAFÉ WHERE HIMARI WORKS PART-TIME, BUT HER TRUE FORM IS A TSUKUMOGAMI—A TEACUP THAT HAS COME TO LIFE. SHE'S FOND OF YUUTO AND CALLS HIM HER "SPECIAL CUSTOMER."

THE STORY SO FAR

YUUTO AMAKAWA IS A HIGH SCHOOLER WITH A SEVERE ALLERGY TO CATS.
WHO SHOULD APPEAR BEFORE HIM ONE DAY OTHER THAN A FELINE AYAKASHI, HIMARI?

"I WILL PROTECT YOU, YOUNG LORD."

SUCH IS THE PROCLAMATION MADE BY HIMARI, HAVING BEEN GIVEN THE DUTY OF PROTECTING YUUTO, THANKS TO A PLEDGE MADE LONG AGO. BUT YUUTO ALSO HAS TO DEAL WITH HIS NEIGHBOR AND CHILDHOOD FRIEND, RINKO, AS WELL AS THE AYAKASHI SHIZUKU, WHO WAS SWAYED BY YUUTO'S KINDNESS AND DECIDED TO LIVE WITH HIM. WITH ALL THESE GIRLS IN HIS LIFE, YUUTO'S DAYS QUICKLY BECOME OFF-THE-WALL AND FULL OF FUN WITH NO END OF SURPRISES.

WELL, THESE DAYS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE FUN-FILLED AND RELAXED. BUT DEEP WITHIN SHIZUKU, A FLAME OF REVENGE STILL SMOLDERS. THAT'S WHEN SHE COMES UPON A MEMBER OF THE JIBASHIRI, THE DEMON-SLAYER FAMILY WHO WIPED OUT HER KIND LONG AGO. THANKS TO THE MACHINATIONS OF KUESU, RANKA MIKARI, A JIBASHIRI DESCENDANT, IS PITTED AGAINST SHIZUKU, WHO GLADLY TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO AVENGE HER FAMILY.

"WATER IS SO VERSATILE...
I CAN CRUSH YOU, DROWN YOU, OR DISMEMBER YOU...
WHICH SHOULD I GO WITH...YOU KNOW?"

FROM WITHIN SHIZUKU'S HEART, YUUTO'S VOICE OF REASON RINGS LOUD AND CLEAR, STATING THAT HER BEING AN AYAKASHI DOESN'T MEAN SHE HAS TO FIGHT AND EVERYONE SHOULD JUST GET ALONG. BUT IN THE FACE OF HER RAGING HATRED, HIS WORDS FAIL TO SINK IN, AND SHIZUKU MOVES IN FOR THE KILL.

HAVING CAST ASIDE A CHANCE AT A NEW LIFE WITH YUUTO AND ALL HER FRIENDS, SHIZUKU CHOOSES INSTEAD TO THROW HER VERY BODY AND SOUL INTO AN ABYSS OF HATE. THUS, KUESU DECIDES TO PASS JUDGMENT ON HER AS A DEMON SLAYER.

"YOU ALONE SURVIVED, AND THE JIBASHIRI PERISHED.
YOU WERE BLESSED WITH DECADES MORE LIFE THAN THEY,
DON'T YOU SEE?"

AT THAT MOMENT, A BLADE SUDDENLY SWINGS DOWN. HIMARI APPEARS WITH HER SWORD IN HAND AND YUUTO IN TOW TO SAVE SHIZUKU. AS YUUTO SHOWS SIGNS OF UNLEASHING HIS LIGHT FERRY, SHIZUKU GRITS HER TEETH AND CHARGES IN FOR THE ATTACK. BUT INSTEAD OF LEVELING HIS POWER AT HER, YUUTO DRAWS HER INTO HIS ARMS.

"IF YOU FORCED YOUR WAY INTO MY DAILY LIFE AND MADE YOURSELF AT HOME IN MY HOME, THEN YOU'RE FORBIDDEN TO LEAVE WITHOUT PERMISSION!"

SHIZUKU BREAKS DOWN IN TEARS, AND THEREAFTER THEIR PEACEFUL DAYS GRADUALLY RETURN TO NORMAL. SOON, CHRISTMAS IS UPON THEM. HIMARI AND THE GANG ENJOY A BOISTEROUS PARTY WITH KUESU AND RINKO. SEEING EVERYONE AT THE PARTY REAFFIRMS IN YUUTO'S MIND THAT IT IS POSSIBLE FOR HUMANS AND AYAKASHI TO OCCUPY THE SAME SPACE AND ENJOY EACH OTHER'S COMPANY. HE CONFIDES TO HIMARI THAT HE WILL FIGHT TO PROTECT THAT HARMONY IF HE MUST.

"FROM TODAY FORWARD, YOU ARE A TRUE DEMON SLAYER."

HIMARI ENGRAVES YUUTO'S RESOLUTION INTO HER HEART. SUDDENLY, AN AYAKASHI SENT BY THE NINE-TAILS APPEARS. BUT WHY!?

WITH THOSE CHARMS REVOLVING AROUND YOU, YOU WERE ABLE TO DISGUISE YOUR DEMON AURA.
KOOOOO (WHOOOO)
THE YOUNG LORD HAS MADE UP HIS MIND. DO YOU FATHOM WHAT THAT MEANS?
I AM THE CAT OF THE AMA-KAWA.
IN THE NAME OF THE YOUNG LORD'S HONOR, I WILL VANQUISH ANY FOE THAT POSES A THREAT!
WHO BESTOWED THOSE ON YOU? WAS IT THEM?
IF YOU FAIL TO WITHDRAW, YOUR LIFE CANNOT BE GUARANTEED, UNDERSTOOD?
HMPH...
INDEED, THIS ATTIRE IS NOT SUITABLE FOR THE END OF THE YEAR. I AM TOO CHILLED TO FIGHT LIKE THIS.
BURU (SHIVER)
I REQUIRE A SPOT OF FORTIFYING LIQUOR. WAIT RIGHT THERE.

MENAGERIE 36: DANCE OF THE MERCILESS CAT

SORRY WE INVITED YOU OUT HERE SO SUDDENLY, CLASS PRESI-DENT.
LEAVING SO SOON, YOU KNOW ...?
YEAH, MY FAMILY'S THROWING A PARTY TOO, SO I HAVE TO SHOW UP.
OH, I'M SORRY.
I HAVE TO GET HOME!
LIZ, FETCH ME A DRINK. AN ENTIRE BOTTLE SHOULD DO TOO.
THINK NOTHING OF IT.
KUESU-SAN, THANK YOU FOR TODAY.
I HAD FUN.
YEP, I HAVE A PRIOR ENGAGE-MENT.
I SEE. 'TIS A PITY.
HM? THE CLASS PRESI-DENT IS TAKING HER LEAVE?

...WATCH OUT OVER-HEAD ON YOUR WAY HOME.
GO (GULP)
"TSURUBE-OTOSHI" MIGHT GET YOU.
GO
GO
GO
I'M N-NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT, BUT I'LL BE CAREFUL.
SHE'S DRINKING STRAIGHT FROM THE BOTTLE...
I'LL WALK YOU DOWN-STAIRS.
IT MUST BE KUESU'S FORCE FIELD AT WORK...
HE CANNOT SEEM TO PINPOINT MY EXACT LOCATION.
ZA (ZSH)
OH, MAYBE I COULD HAVE AMAKA-WA-KUN WALK ME?
M-ME?
IT SEEMS IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO ASK THINGS LIKE THAT OF HIM TODAY. ♡
URK...
IT'S TRUE, THOUGH.
GYON (WHOOSH)

NO NEED TO HURRY. DO YOU CRAVE ME THAT BADLY!?
HA!!
GOU (WHOOSH)
CHA (CLINK)
TA (TAP)
GIIIIIH!
GAPA (GAPE)
DON (SLASH)

NII (SMIRK)
WAS I BEING KIND OF MEAN?
NAH, IT'S FINE.
AFTER ALL, IT LOOKS LIKE I'M STUCK BEING YOUR SLAVE UNTIL TOMORROW.
KNOCK IT OFF WITH THE SELF-PITY.
...HMM. BUT IF THAT'S HOW YOU SEE IT...
...THAT OBLIGES ME TO DEMAND A KISS OUT OF MY LITTLE SLAVE TODAY, DOESN'T IT?
HUH!?

I'M NOT ABOUT TO PUT A DEATH FLAG ON MY BACK
AH-HA-HA! AS IF. I WAS JUST KIDDING.
PFFT!
P-PRESIDENT, THAT'S A LITTLE, UH...
DON'T GET ME WRONG, I'M FLATTERED, BUT STILL
WATA (PANIC) わたわた WATA
CLASS PRESIDENT, LOOK OUT!!
GUSHA (SPLORT)
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S GOING ON?
ZANA
ZANA (SHOT)
THIS IS...
WH-WH-WHAT THE ...?
!
ZUSA (SKID)

ZUBO (SHNK)
PYU (SPURT)
TO (TAP)
N-NOI-HARA-SAN ...?
.....
THAT GIRL IS SO COOL!
YOU THINK MAYBE IT'S A STAGED PERFOR-MANCE?
WHAT IS THAT? ARE THEY SHOOTING A MOVIE?
-SNEER-

FEAR NOT, HU-MANS!
TONIGHT IS A HOLY NIGHT. A BANQUET IN HONOR OF THE GOD YOU SERVE!!
ALL IS FORGIVEN, AND YOUR SINS WIPED CLEAN.
EAT, DRINK, AND BE MERRY!!
ゴポポ
GOPOPO (BLOOP)
POU (GLOW)
...WHAT IS THAT HIMARI DOING?
OOOOH!
NICE GOING, LADY WITH THE CAT EARS!
TOO COOL!!

AMAKAWA-KUN, YOU MADE A LUCKY PASS.
むにゅ MUNI (SQUISH)
WAH-WAH!?
...SHE WON OVER THE PEANUT GALLERY BEFORE A PANIC COULD BREAK OUT!?
Y-YEAH... BUT MORE IMPOR-TANTLY...
HIMARI...!
I'M SORRY! I'M SO SORRY!!
SINCE YOU GOT THE DEATH FLAG OFF MY HEAD, I'LL FORGIVE YOU, BUT YOU'RE STILL A PERV!

IT HAS BEEN FAR TOO LONG.
THE HUNT.
THE THRILL OF THE CHASE.
TONIGHT IS A NIGHT TO COMMEM-ORATE.
GA (GRAB)
ZAZAZAZA (CHITTER)
GOT YOU NOW !!
HMPH
WITH YOUR BLOOD...
DOSU (STAB)
GECKO!!
ZUZUZUZU (SWRRRRL)

...WILL I FILL MY CUP!!
ME?
!!
SHU (WHOOSH)
BY WHOM?
IT'S KILL OR BE KILLED.
HYLIN (WHOOSH)
GIRIRI (TAUT)
きりりっ
!
DOSHU (STAB)
KILL OR BE KILLED!!

IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO DIE...
GA-GAH ...!
...THEN STAND NOT BEFORE THE CRIMSON BLADE.
BECOME A LUMP OF FLESH.
GUH! GAA-AAH!
KAAAAA (FLAAAASH)
EVERY-ONE!!
BAN (SLAM)
YUU-CHAN! DID SOMETHING HAPPEN!?
YUUTO, WHERE'S THE CLASS PRESI-DENT!?
THE PRESI-DENT'S FINE.
BUT HIMARI IS... FIGHTING SOME-THING!!

EVEN THOUGH FIGHTING IN THE CITY IS TOO RISKY 'COS IT ATTRACTS ATTENTION, SHE'S SHOWING NO SIGN OF PULLING OUT.
OF COURSE, THAT'S A SUITABLE PUNISH-MENT FOR INTERFERING WITH OUR PARTY.
KUESU, PLEASE DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT AYAKASHI THAT HIMARI KILLED, LIKE YOU DID WITH THAT MAGIC CIRCLE THE OTHER TIME.
ME CLEAN UP AFTER THAT CAT!?
NEVER!
...I SUP-POSE I'VE NO OP-TION.
FWASA (SWYF)
ZAWA (BUZZ)
!
:SMOOCH:
...N-NOW I'LL UNDER-TAKE THE JOB FOR YOU!
PASA (FLUFF)
M-ME TOO!!
CLEANING UP IS MY FORTE!
I'LL DO IT... YOU KNOW.
GAOOH!!

AND THEN USED HER CAT SPIRIT POWERS TO GUT THEM.
SHE WENT OVER-BOARD BY SLICING THEM UP.
AND WHAT A STENCH
HOW VILE
WHAT... IS THIS?
I CAN'T IMAGINE SHE'D EVER SHOW HER TRUE BEASTLY SELF TO YUU-CHAN... BUT—
THIS WAY... YOU KNOW.
SHI-ZUKU!!
HIMARI!!

HELLO THERE, YOUNG LORD.
EEEE!!
EEK ...!
!!
BUT WORRY NOT.
NO MATTER HOW MANY AYAKASHI BAND TOGETHER AND THREATEN US...
...I WILL OPEN THE WAY FOR OUR PATH WITH MY BLADE.
THESE FIENDS WERE SENT HERE BY THE NINE-TAILS TO FIGHT.
HAD I NOT KILLED THEM, THEY WOULD NEVER HAVE CEASED.

RIGHT, YOUNG LORD?
THIS WAS THE PATH I'D CHOSEN. HIMARI BROUGHT THAT HOME TO ME.
FOR A MOMENT, I THOUGHT OF TAKING HER HAND.
BUT...
SHIFT
WHATEVER IS THE MATTER? ...OH YES, YOUR ALLERGIES?
I APOLOGIZE. I FORGOT.
THAT WAS WHAT I FELT AT THE TIME.

.....
#
#
-GRIN-

'TIS A LIGHT.
LIGHT.
SO WARM...
THERE IS A LIGHT.
SO CALMING... THIS IS...
...IF HE DID NOT HAVE ME...
AAH, 'TIS THE YOUNG LORD...
WITH YOU JUST BEING WITH ME...
HEH-HEH. I KNOW. INDEED, IF THE YOUNG LORD DID NOT HAVE ME...

MENAGERIE 37:
POEM OF A CAT ON A CERTAIN WINTER'S DAY

...
MROWR.
BA (FWAP)
DAN (THUD)
...IF I COULD NOT HAVE MY BLADE AIMED AT THE ENEMY UPON MY MOMENT OF WAKING, I WOULD NOT BE FIT TO BE A BODY-GUARD.
CHIN (CLINK)

YOU ARE UP EARLY, MIZUCHI. WAS I NOT TO BE IN CHARGE OF BREAKFAST THIS MORN?
...THE AYAKASHI OF TAKAMIYA HAVE DISPERSED.
MY DUTY TO WATCH OVER YUUTO HAS LOST ITS MEANING... YOU KNOW.
KII (CREAK)
!
SO YOU ARE ON HOLIDAY NOW?
DON'T BE SILLY... YOU KNOW. ALL IT MEANS IS...
...I WANT TO REVIEW YOUR SITUATION AFTER THAT CHRISTMAS DAY...YOU KNOW.

.....
MY SITUATION?
IS NOT THE YOUNG LORD THE ONE YOU WISH TO KNOW ABOUT?
AH, YES. TODAY I WILL BE TOILING AS A MAID AT CAFÉ RELISH.
HMPH. DO YOU REALLY THINK I WOULD EVER TELL YOU WHAT IS GOING THROUGH THE YOUNG LORD'S MIND?
TON
TON (TMP)
THANK YOU FOR WATCHING THE HOUSE.
...IS IT NOT SIMPLY YOUR LOVE FOR BLOOD ...?
LATELY YOUR MISO SOUP HAS TAKEN ON THAT FLAVOR TOO... YOU KNOW.
HMPH
I AM MERELY CARRYING OUT MY WIFELY DUTIES AS A CAT, SEE?
KNOCK IT OFF... YOU KNOW.

MENU
HIMARI-SAN, PLEASE BRING THIS ORANGE PEKOE TEA AND HOT CHOCOLATE TO TABLE TWO.
MM-HM, UNDER-STOOD.
THANK YOU FOR WAITING

I WASN'T SURE IF IT WAS THE SAME HIMARI-SAN...
THAT OTHER TIME, I WAS REALLY SCARED...
THANK GOOD-NESS, SHE'S BACK TO THE OLD HIMARI-SAN.
...WHAT IS IT, LIZ?
'TIS RUDE TO STARE.
I'M SO HAPPY YOU'RE BACK IN YOUR RIGHT MIND, HIMARI-SAN!!
PIN (PERK)
SURI
SURI
SURI (RUB)
WHAT!? HOW DARE YOU! I AM ALWAYS IN MY RIGHT MIND!!
GOOD JOB, MAID GIRLS!!

-JING&LE-
...CAT AND TEA-CUP-SAN?
HOW GOES IT...
WELL, IF IT IS NOT KUESU.
I DO NOT WISH TO BE CRITIQUED BY ONE WHO WEARS SUCH ECCENTRIC CLOTHING AS YOURSELF.
WHAT DO YOU CALL THAT FRUMPISH PILE OF FRILLS ANYWAY?
THIS IS GOTHIC LOLITA FASHION!
IT'S KNOW-NOTHING CATS LIKE YOU THAT I CAN'T STAND!!
THAT OUTFIT SUITS YOU WELL, HIMARI.
HURRY UP AND FIND YOUR-SELF A SEAT.
WITCHES GO WITH-OUT TASTE TESTING AND PAY THREE TIMES THE USUAL COSTS.
HIMARI-SAAAN!
HOH-HOH-HOH, I'LL HAVE TO SUBMIT A COMPLAINT ABOUT THIS WAITRESS.

C'MON IN, RINKO.
WOW, IT SURE IS COLD OUT THERE!
EVEN THOUGH I WALKED ONLY A FEW METERS, I'M CHILLED TO THE BONE.
BASA (FWAP)
...HIMARI ISN'T CURLED UP IN A BALL UNDER-NEATH HERE, IS SHE?
CATS JUST LOVE KOTATSUS.
HIMARI'S GOT WORK AT CAFE RELISH TODAY.
GABA (LIFT)
MOSO (SQUIRM)
AAAW, A KOTATSU. SO WARM. ♡
MOSO

さわ
SAWA
さわ
SAWA (RUB)

...IT'S COLD. PUT THAT BACK DOWN... YOU KNOW.

...OH. HI.

HOLD IT, YOU! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?
TCH YOU KNOW
ずるっ
ZURUU (DRAG)
WHOA!?
BIKU (JOLT)

A KOTATSU HAS A DIRTY AND IMMORAL AIR ABOUT IT...
'COS BOYS AND GIRLS CAN SLIP RIGHT INTO THE SAME FUTON TOGETHER... YOU KNOW.
KOTATSU SEX IS A LIMITED-TIME-ONLY SPECIALTY... YOU KNOW.
TH-TH-TH-THAT'S NOT TRUE, YOU IDIOT!
LET'S JUST ALL GET UNDER IT AND EAT SOME MIKAN LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE.
IF WE HAD ONE MORE, WE COULD PLAY MAH-JONGG
ALL JOKING ASIDE...
...NOW THAT RINKO'S HERE TOO—
...YUUTO AMAKAWA.
!
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING YOU SHOULD BE FILLING ME IN ON... YOU KNOW?
SHIZUKU ONLY CALLS YUUTO BY HIS FULL NAME WHEN SHE SEES HIM AS A DEMON SLAYER.
I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO SAY IT ALOUD, BUT AFTER HIMARI'S RADICAL CHANGE THE OTHER DAY...
...THERE'S A LOT I WANT TO HEAR TOO.

TRUTH IS, DURING THE CHRISTMAS PARTY...
NO!!
.....
I... SEE.

...HAVE DECIDED TO FIGHT AS YUUTO AMAKAWA, THE DEMON SLAYER...YOU KNOW.
SO YOU ...
—
HA HA, I GUESS SO.
...PLAYED A PART IN MAKING YOU DECIDE THIS. HOW IRONIC.
...I CAN'T BELIEVE MY VENGEFUL HEART...
HAAH...
...I SEE. SO YOU'VE MADE UP YOUR MIND.
CHRISTMAS NIGHT, I THOUGHT SOMETHING WAS UP WHEN I SAW HIMARI.
I ALWAYS SORT OF KNEW ALL THIS TIME.
YUUTO'S A DEMON SLAYER, HIMARI AND THE OTHERS ARE AYAKASHI, AND I'M JUST A REGULAR HUMAN...
DEEP DOWN IN MY HEART, I KNEW WE LIVED IN DIFFERENT WORLDS.

...I NEVER DID A THING FOR HIM.
...DON'T APOLO-GIZE.
I'M SORRY, RINKO.
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS SO OBVIOUS THAT AFTER LEARNING HIS FAMILY'S SECRET, YUUTO'S BEEN TORN APART INSIDE, I...
EVEN THOUGH I HAD THAT VAGUE PRE-MONITION, I CLUNG TIGHTLY TO MY DAILY LIFE, BELIEVING IT WOULD NEVER CHANGE.
...I'M AFRAID HE'S GONNA GO OFF SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY ALL OF A SUDDEN AND LEAVE ME BEHIND...
JUST LIKE HOW THEY SUD-DENLY SHOWED UP ONE DAY...
I CAN BARELY CALL MYSELF HIS CHILDHOOD FRIEND LIKE THIS...
...REALLY, RINKO. I'M SORRY TO ASK SOMETHING SO SELFISH, BUT...

...COULD YOU STAY WITH ME LIKE NOTHING'S CHANGED, THE WAY WE WERE BEFORE... PLEASE?

RINKO?
YOU...
I WANT YOU TO BE THE PILLAR YOU'VE BEEN FOR ME ALL THIS TIME.
THAT'S RIGHT.
EH...AH! ...WHA...?
YOU'RE CRYING...
!?

UM, IT ISN'T LIKE THAT...
...OH, I KNOW!
THE WAY YOU'RE SO CONFIDENT IN THE DECISION YOU MADE MAKES ME AS HAPPY AS A BIG SISTER!
YUUTO'S ALWAYS TOO NICE...
WAH-WAH!?
GYU (HUG)
キュッ
...I SHOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN ALL DISCOMBOBULATED AND HUGGED HIM.
THIS IS TOO EMBARRASSING!!
...YOU SCORED ME SUPER-LOW FROM THE GET-GO, DIDN'T YOU...?
MM
WHEN I THINK OF HOW FAR YOU'VE COME FROM THE GLOOMY AND BIRDBRAINED YUUTO YOU WERE BEFORE, I JUST CAN'T HELP MYSELF!!
THIS ISN'T SO MUCH SISTERLY AS IT IS MOTHERLY, DON'T YOU THINK?
GYUUU

RINKO... THANKS.
NADE (PAT) なで
.....
BO ぼ!! ぼ!! BO (BLUSH)
BO ぼ!! BO
ぼ!! BO
WHOOA...
I CAN SEE WHERE THIS IS GOING, SO I'M GONNA SPLIT...YOU KNOW.
HITA (TROT) ひた
HITA ひた
HITA ひた
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT!!
IF YOU GO NOW, I WON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!!
ひっ HISHI (TIGHT)
THIS ISN'T GOING ANY-WHERE!!

BACK THERE... YUUTO HESITATED FOR A MOMENT BEFORE TAKING THE CAT'S HAND.
ひた HITA
HITA
ひた HITA
ひた HITA
.....
WHEREAS THE FIRST TIME THEY FOUGHT, THE TWO CLASPED HANDS WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT...
...THERE'S STILL A CHANCE... YOU KNOW.
NIYA (SMIRK)
WH- WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO...?
KOTATSU SEX, KOTATSU SEX, KOTATSU SEX...
BO ぼ!! BO ぼ!! BO ぼ!!

ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA (RUSTLE)
THE DAY WHEN THE JINGUUJI AND AMAKAWA UNITE TO BECOME THE STRONGEST DEMON SLAYERS IS NIGH...
BE WELL ON YOUR GUARD SO THAT YOU DON'T BECOME PREY TO THAT NINE-TAILS.
HMPH. THINGS WILL NOT GO AS YOU PLAN.
THE ONE WHO WILL PROTECT THE YOUNG LORD'S FUTURE IS NONE OTHER THAN I!
FU FU FU FU!
HA HA HA HA.

居酒屋
WELCOME. WILL THAT BE FOUR FOR DINNER TONIGHT? THE SMOKING SECTION IS...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
I SWEAR, BRATS THESE DAYS'RE ONLY GOOD AT SHOOTING OFF THEIR MOUTHS.
EXPOSURE

SIGN: BAR NONBOU

NIKO (BEAM)
NIKO
THEY JUST DON'T LISTEN!
AND THEY NEVER TAKE THEIR TEACHERS SERIOUSLY!
DAN (SLAM)
WHAT'S SO FUNNY, YUUKO?
OH, SAE-CHAN. YOU'RE JUST SO AMUSING, EVEN WHEN YOU'RE BITCHING ABOUT THINGS.
SIGN: DRAFT BEER YUUHI
GUBIII (CHUG)
MMM...
COMPARED TO THE PERSONAL STRIFE I'M GOING THROUGH, THIS DOESN'T EVEN MERIT BITCHING.
HA! SPARE ME.
YOU TRY TAKING ON AN EXTRA CLASS. THEN YOU'LL KNOW WHAT HARD WORK IS.
I COULD NEVER. I JUST DON'T HAVE THE PRESENCE FOR IT.

I'M SURPRISED YOU WOULD ACTUALLY BE INTERESTED IN HEARING SOMEONE ELSE'S LOVE STORY.
THIS HERE YUUKO-SAN WILL LISTEN TO YOUR WOES.
CURIOUS EYES
COULD IT BE STRIFE OVER A MAN?
WH-WHAT?
ZUI CLOOMD
SIGN: DINNER PARTY
...THE TRUTH IS I...
ANYWAY, SORRY, BUT IT'S NOT SUCH A ROMANTIC STORY AS ALL THAT.
...
...I'M NOT ACTUALLY HUMAN.

I'M ORIGINALLY A WICKED STRONG AYAKASHI.
I'M ALSO THE ONE WHO ERASED THE MEMORIES OF THE PATRONS AT CAFE RELISH
EH, LIM...
ZURUU (PRESS)
AAAH, YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME. WELL, LISTEN UP, M'DEAR.
0m
190m
GASHI (GRAB)
...PROTECT THE TOWN AS A KIND OF GOD WITH THE SCHOOL AT THE HEART OF MY JURIS-DICTION.
USUALLY, I HIDE IN THE SHADOWS AND...
KEH
I WAS AT BOSS LEVEL, LEAGUES ABOVE THAT CAT AND SNAKE.
RIGHT...
COME ON, LEMME HEAR YOU MOAN! ♡
DON'T... ...AH!
-LICK-
AND EVERY SO OFTEN, I FIND LADY PREY TO MAKE A PASS AT! ♡
BIKU (JOLT)
AH... NO... SAE-CHAN ...!

...I DON'T GET WHY IT WAS MADE TO HAVE "NEVER BEEN"!!
...I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS A CHANGE IN POLICY OR WHAT, BUT...
CALM DOWN, SAE-CHAN...
HFF!
HAAH!
...BUT AS FAR AS ALL THAT GOES...
GU (CLUTCH)
GU
AHN...
...NAH, THAT PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE GOOD.
FOR THE STORY
BUT MAYBE IN THE FINAL CHAPTER YOU'LL PULL A DEUS EX MACHINA AND MOW IT ALL DOWN?

FLAG CRUSHER

"CLASS PRESIDENT GETS CAUGHT UP IN BATTLE AND DIES."
I AVOIDED A DEATH FLAG LIKE THAT.
BUT WHAT ABOUT THIS LOVE FLAG FOR AMAKAWA-KUN WHO JUST SAVED ME...?
NO, NO, NO. IT MIGHT WORK ON A GAMER, BUT...
...IN THE WORLD OF "OMAMORI HIMARI," IT'D MAKE ME NO DIFFERENT THAN LIZ.
FIRST OF ALL, I HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN GIVEN A REAL NAME, AND I HAVE THIS MORTALITY HANDICAP. I'D NEVER LAST AS A REHASH LIKE THAT ...
AH, BUT AS A GAMER, NOT HAVING A REAL NAME MIGHT BE A DEFINING CHARACTERISTIC OF MY IDENTITY...
I'M MORE LOVABLE THAN CHARACTERS WITH WEIRD NAMES.

SHUT UPPP!!
GYUUU (CHOKE)
PEOPLE JUST HAPPENED TO TAKE A FANCY TO THE SPECS AND X-SHAPED HAIR CLIPS... ...PFFT!

MEW ALWAYS WERE ONLY A MOB CHARACTER!
HYOKO (POP)
!!

MYSTERY DETECTIVE
YOU ARE THE CUL-PRIT!!
BISHI (JAB)
KUWA (ROAR)
KUH HEE HEE
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SAY THAT AS A DETEC-TIVE.
THOUGH IT'S SO CLICHÉD.
SO NEXT TIME...
...I'LL DELIBERATELY POINT OUT ONE PERSON FROM THE CROWD AND SHOUT, "YOU'RE THE CLIENT!"...
BISHI
...WHEN HE'S ACTUALLY THE CRIMI-NAL.
KUH-HEE! HOW'S THAT FOR A BUILDUP TO THE PROGNOSTICATING PSYCHIC DETECTIVE BEAUTY?
IT WOULD ONLY MAKE FOR EITHER A CHEAP NOVEL OR A SKIT.
OKAY, NEXT!

...A COUPLE OF DAYS BEFORE THAT IS...
LISTEN, EVERY-ONE!
...DECEMBER 21ST, THE DATE OF MY BIRTH!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HIMARI. HOW OLD ARE YOU NOW?
OOF! HOW LIKE YOU, YOUNG LORD, TO ASK SUCH A TABOO QUESTION SO NATURALLY!
CHRISTMAS THE OTHER DAY WAS THE BIRTHDAY OF A RELIGIOUS FIGURE, BUT...
BA (FLAP)
YEAH, YUUTO. YOU CAN'T ASK A GIRL HER AGE!
S-SORRY.
LET'S JUST SAY SHE'S WELL PAST BEING CALLED A "YOUNG LADY"... YOU KNOW.
YOU'RE OVER A CENTURY OLD YOURSELF!
WHO ARE YOU TO JUDGE, MISS ETERNAL YOUTH!?
MROWR!?

I DECIDED TO BECOME A DEMON SLAYER.
THIS IS TO PROTECT MY EVERYDAY LIFE WITH RINKO AND TAIZOU AND THE GANG.
AND TO PROTECT THE HEARTS OF LIZ AND SHIZUKU, WHO ONCE FEARED DEMON SLAYERS AND OPPOSED THEM.
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I REBELLED AGAINST THE IDEA THAT "YOU CAN'T PROTECT ANYTHING IF YOU DON'T HAVE POWER," BUT...
...NOW THAT THERE ARE BEINGS ACTUALLY CHARGING IN TO ATTACK, I NEED TO PREPARE MYSELF.
AND IT'S ALSO RELATED TO PROTECTING MY PROMISE TO KUESU AND MY BOND WITH HIMARI.

"SHOULD NOT THE YOUNG LORD BE CONCERNING HIMSELF WITH OTHER MATTERS?"
...IS WHAT SHE SAID. BUT...
WHEN I PROPOSED THAT, HIMARI SMILED WRYLY AT ME.
"THAT WAY, YOU WON'T HAVE TO RESORT TO YOUR TRUE BEAST FORM, RIGHT, HIMARI?"
PON (PAT)
PON (PAT)
"IF I BECOME STRONGER, I CAN LIFT SOME OF THE BURDEN OFF OF HIMARI."
THE FIRST AYAKASHI MAY WELL BE ME.
COME AT ME WITHOUT RESERVE.
TON (TAP)
LET US BEGIN YOUR TRAINING TODAY.
SO THAT THAT NEVER HAPPENS!!
YOU BET I WILL, HIMARI !!

MENAGERIE 38:
THE SHARP-CLAWED CAT DOESN'T LOOK BACK

BEFORE, THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN SERIOUS NEWS...YOU KNOW.
I SEE. SO YUUTO AMAKAWA IS FINALLY CARRYING ON HIS DUTIES AS A DEMON SLAYER.
THAT IS NOT TO SAY I DON'T APPRE-CIATE YOUR EGGING HIM ON.
HE IS ONE DEDICATED GOODY-TWO-SHOES.
YOU KNOW.
I ALSO HAVE A HANDLE ON THE CURRENT SITUA-TION.
SO LONG AS WE DON'T CONFRONT THEM, NEITHER HE NOR HIS CRIMSON BLADE WILL STRIKE US.
HE'S JUST TOO PAS-SIVE...
SHUT UP... YOU KNOW.
DID THE AMAKAWA SEAL CUB CURB HIS ADO-LESCENT SEXUAL INTEREST TOO?
MAYBE HE'S TOO YOUNG... YOU KNOW.
YOU KNOW
AND AFTER ALL MY ATTEMPTS AT MAKING HIM HARD...

...IN ANY CASE, WE SHOULD NOTIFY OUR SCATTERED COMRADES... YOU KNOW.
ABOUT THE FACT THAT AMAKAWA WILL NOT BE PUTTY IN YOUR ARMS ANY TIME SOON, YOU MEAN?
FOOL... ABOUT HOW HE'S AWOKEN TO HIS INHERITANCE AS A DEMON SLAYER... YOU KNOW.
JUST KIDDING. I KNEW THAT. HEH HEH
BORO (WORN-OUT)
ほい
3
.....

TH-THAT HURT, HIMARI.
YOUR WHINING DOES YOU NO FAVORS.
I WILL NOT ACTUALLY CUT YOU WITH MY BLADE, SO YOU NEED NOT FEAR FOR YOUR LIFE
HYUN CSWISH
YOUNG LORD, YOUR REFLEXES ARE SATISFACTORY.
HOWEVER, YOUR DYNAMIC VISION IS ONLY THAT OF A HUMAN'S.
CHIN CCLINK
IF YOU WERE TO TAKE ON AN AYAKASHI WHO WAS FLEET OF FOOT, YOU WOULD NEVER KEEP UP.
COMPLAIN ALL YOU LIKE, BUT I AM ONLY HUMAN, AFTER ALL...
USE YOUR HEAD, YOUNG LORD.
IF YOU CANNOT KEEP UP, THEN YOU MUST STOP YOUR OPPONENT.
YOU POSSESS THE LIGHT FERRY, SO THAT IS ONE METHOD OF IMPROVING YOUR DYNAMIC VISION.
AH... THAT'S RIGHT, THE LIGHT FERRY...
IT CAN WORK ON BOTH OBJECTS AND PEOPLE?
AH, THERE YOU ARE.
YUUTO, YOU HOLDING UP?
!
ZA CCSH

OOH, THANKS, RINKO.
MM, MOST APPRE-CIATED.
SINCE IT'S NEARLY LUNCHTIME, I BROUGHT SOME BOXED LUNCHES. ♡
!
THERE WE HAVE IT, YOUNG LORD.
HOLD IT! THEN THESE LUNCHES I MADE ARE GONNA GO TO WASTE!
BUT I'M STARVING
WH-WHAAA—!?
YOU MUST GRAB AHOLD OF THIS RIBBON.
UNTIL YOU DO SO, YOUR HUNGER SHALL GO UN-SATED.
RELY ON WHAT-EVER MEANS YOU LIKE TO TRY AND CATCH ME.
YEAH, WELL IT'S GONNA BE IMPOS-SIBLE.
MM-HM
...RINKO-SAN, YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU DON'T THINK I HAVE A SHOT AT ALL, HUH ...?

I WILL KEEP TO A ROUGHLY ELEVEN-METER RADIUS AROUND YOU, YOUNG LORD...
ZA (CSH)
AND SO...
...OFF I GO!
SHA (ZIP)
UH...
WH-WHAT!?
SHU (WOOSH)
HERE, THIS IS MY FIRST TIME DOING YOU A SERVICE.
GYU (HUG)
-SQUISH-
HEY!!
COME ON.
NUNYUN (SMOOSH)
TRY AND TAKE MY RIBBON.
GUNYUN (SQUEEZE)
URK
I-I'LL SNATCH IT RIGHT OFF!
SUKA (WHOOSH)
BA (WHIP)
SU (SWF)

DAN (TMP)
TO (TMP)
TOO SLOW.
SLAP
ZA (ZSH)
OW!
SHA (WHOOSH)
NI (SMIRK)
SUKA
SUKA
SUKA
AAW, THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.
COME ON, COME ON! RIGHT OVER HERE!
WHY, YOU...!

WHEN IT COMES TO USING IT ON MYSELF... I'M A LITTLE SCARED.
I'M STILL NOT VERY GOOD WITH IT
SHE MEANS I SHOULD TRY TO AUGMENT MY DYNAMIC VISION WITH THE LIGHT FERRY?
KUH!
BA (CLINGE)
OOPS
-SHSH-
WHAT IS THE MATTER, YOUNG LORD? I TOLD YOU TO RESORT TO ANY METHOD YOU LIKE, DID I NOT?
OW!
PESM (SMACK)
POWERING UP MY EYES, HUH...? HOW DO I KNOW I WON'T TURN THEM INTO EYE BOMBS AND BLOW THEM OUTTA MY SKULL?
LAST TIME, I FLUNG KUESU BACK BY REFLEX, BUT IT WAS COMPLETELY UNCONSCIOUS.
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO LAND ONE MORE HEFTY BLOW, HM?
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA (ZIP)
THE YOUNG LORD IS HESITATING.

TAKE HALF A STEP LEFT AND FOR-WARD.
HERE COME THE CLAWS. TWIST AND DODGE YOUR UPPER BODY RIGHT AND BACK.
BISHU (SWIPE)
NOW DUCK.
ZAN (SLICE)
NOW TAKE FIVE STEPS BACK.
WH-WHAT IS THIS?
WHAT...
...THE?

!
RAISE YOUR LEFT HAND.
しぱっ
SHIPA (SHOOP)
THEN TWIST IT TO THE LEFT AND BACK, ARM HORIZONTAL.
PALM OPEN AND BACK.
YOUR TARGET IS THREE METERS BACK AND FORTY-FIVE DEGREES UP IN THE TREES.
BUT WHO ...?
IMPOSSIBLE. SOMEONE IS PREDICTING MY MOVES?
!!
MUNYU (SQUISH)

MWAH...
:SQUISH:
:GROPE:
TH-THIS IS...
NI (LEER)
HOW DARE YOU, IN THE MIDDLE OF TRAINING !!?
SAVE IT FOR THE BEDROOM!
ZUDAAN (SLAM)
GWEH!
!!
WAIT, HIMARI!!

WHAT... THE?
PASA (FLUTTER)
//0
+

KUH-HEE-HEE... SPLENDID, WELL DONE. YOU'VE EARNED YOUR LUNCH.
BUT YOU HAVE TO SPLIT IT WITH ME! ♡

.....

YOU DID WELL FOR IT BEING SO COLD, CAT.
KUH-HEE... NICE TO MEET YOU. I AM...
KUH-HEE-HEE! CLOSE ONE, CLOSE ONE.
KURU (FLIP)
TAN (TMP)
SHA (SWISH)
SU (DUCK)
GAGAAAN (SHOCK)
SHE WAS JUST ABOUT TO INTRODUCE HERSELF!!
WHO ARE YOU!?
CHA (CHINK)
SHUPA (SWISH)

HITSUGI YAKOUIN OF THE ELEVENTH-PLACE FAMILY.
AN-OTHER GIRL!?
KUH-HEE. CORRECT...
BUT IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE TO COLLECT MY MEAL.
...I SEE. SO YOU TOO ARE A DEMON SLAYER.
THEN YOU MAY PASS.
!
DEMON SLAYER!? THIS GIRL?
...YA-KOUIN.
DITTO...
I'VE NEVER MET ANOTHER DEMON SLAYER BESIDES YUUTO AND KUESU.
AND ONE SO YOUNG AT THAT

A DEMON SLAYER NEVER MISSES ANYTHING, IS THAT NOT RIGHT? MISS MYSTERIOUS PSYCHIC DETECTIVE BEAUTY?
HMPH. I THINK YOU MEAN YOU WERE SPYING ON US?
THERE ARE OTHERS ... THE SHRINE MAIDEN SISTERS FROM THE KAGAMIMORI FAMILY...AND THE FOUR-EYED, SUIT-WEARING, FUJOSHI KILLER OF THE TSUCHIMIKADO.
SINCE I HAPPENED TO BE NEARBY, I DECIDED TO SAY HELLO.
MUGU
MUGU (CHEW)
THERE ARE SOME REGIONS THAT REFER TO MEMBERS OF MY CLAN AS SUCH. BUT WE ARE BY NO MEANS GODS.
CAT GOD?
PASHA (PAT)
NOW I'M SAD.
THAT HURT, CAT GOD...
SO, YAKOUIN-SAN.
YOU CAN CALL ME HITSUGI WITH THE "-SAN" AT THE END.
AH, OKAY, THEN. HITSUGI-SAN.
KUH HEE HEE!
THAT THING BEFORE... WAS THAT YOUR SPECIAL POWER?

LIGHTNING-FAST THOUGHT PROCESSES THAT INSTANTANEOUSLY EXAMINE AND ANALYZE ALL GIVEN INFORMATION AND FIT IT TOGETHER IN A LOGICAL ORDER.
AND THE UNBOUNDED POWER OF "AUGURY" THAT VERGES ON SOOTHSAYING FROM WHICH THE OTHER ABILITIES ORIGINATE ...
SUCH ARE THE POWERS OF THE YAKOUIN, YES?
YOU CAN ADD "PERFECT PERCEPTION OF SPATIAL COORDINATES" AND "COMMAND OF TEMPORAL COORDINATES" TO THAT.
I SEARCH THE WORLD TO CHOOSE THE MOST CONVENIENT FUTURE.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE CHEATING.
ISN'T THAT AGAINST THE RULES?
KUH HEE HEE HEE...
ZA (RISE)
THAT'S HOW I CAN READ MY OPPONENT'S MOVES.
WHILE THEY CANNOT READ MINE.
YUUTO AMAKAWA. AS THANKS FOR THE LUNCH, I'LL SHARE AN IDEA WITH YOU.
YOU CAN ONLY USE IT ONCE, BUT IT'S AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO STOP YOUR ENEMY IN HIS OR HER TRACKS.
!

THE DECISION YOU'VE MADE, THE PATH YOU HAVE CHOSEN... IS THE REAL DEAL.
BUT YOU ARE STILL SURROUNDED...
...BY DEATH TRAPS.
SFX GONYO (WHISPER) GONYO GONYO
...I CAN'T DO THAT, CAN I?
WHAT?
KUH HEE HEE...
AH, IT'S ALMOST TIME...
I HAVE TO SCRAM.
YOUR NEXT GUEST WILL BE ARRIVING SOON, SO PLAY NICE WITH HIM...
NEXT GUEST?
AND ANOTHER THING, YUUTO AMA-KAWA.

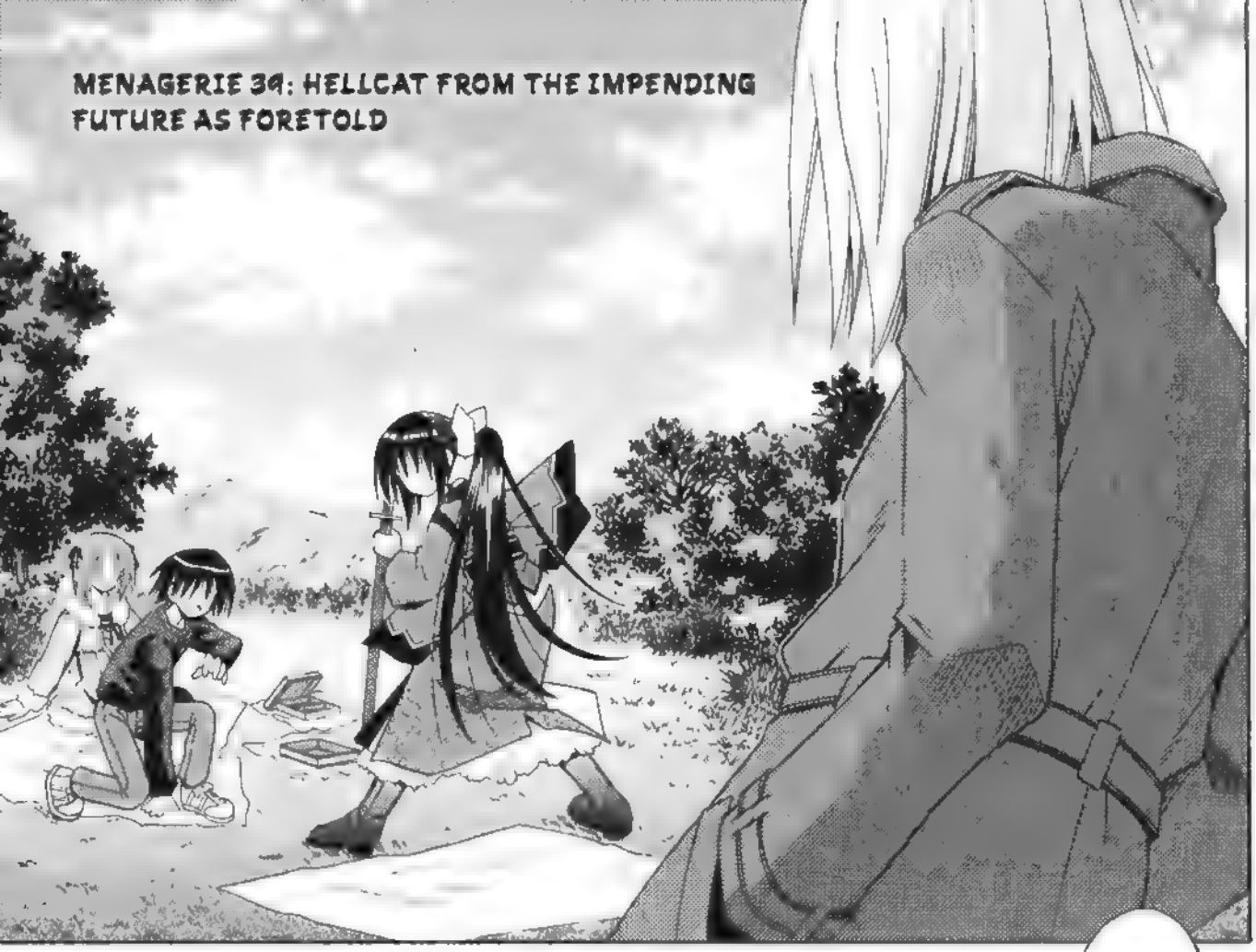
DO NOT WORRY ABOUT WHAT SOME FALSE PROPHET HAS TO SAY.
WHAT A WEIRD GIRL.
...SHE'S GONE.

PAKI (SNAP)
ARE YOU THE ONE CALLED YUUTO AMAKAWA?

ALL YOU NEED DO IS CRUSH THOSE WHO DISAGREE.
THIS IS YOUR PATH TO TAKE, YOUNG LORD.
...RIGHT.

I HEAR YOU'VE BEEN MEDDLING WITH TAMAMO-NO-MAE...
...DEMON SLAYER.

MENAGERIE 39: HELLCAT FROM THE IMPENDING FUTURE AS FORETOLD



HMPH. NOT AGAIN.
ANOTHER WILD AYAKASHI HAS COME TO ATTACK US. YOU NEVER LEARN.
CHA CCHINKO チャ"ン
WE HAVE NO INTEREST IN SUCH CHILD'S PLAY.

DON'T SAY THAT. I'M NOT ONE OF THEIR MINIONS.
BUT OF COURSE, I DON'T RELISH THE IDEA OF A WORLD WHERE AYAKASHI ARE REPRESSED BY HUMANS WHO RELY ON DEMON SLAYERS.

I DARESAY YOU ARE BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE BY CONFRONTING THE MORE SENSIBLY MINDED AMAKAWA.
THAT IS A RATHER NARROW WAY OF LOOKING AT THINGS. IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU WOULD DO BETTER TO FACE TSUCHI-MIKADO OR JINGUUJI.
ZA (STANCE)

MENAGERIE 39:
HELLCAT FROM THE IMPENDING FUTURE AS FORETOLD

HIMARI ...!
I WILL UPHOLD YOUR HONOR AND NOT STRIKE FIRST.
DO NOT COME FORWARD, YOUNG LORD.
I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT AYAKASHI!
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT CAN'T WE TALK THIS OUT!?
TALK IT OUT?
...SURE. I DIDN'T COME HERE SO WE COULD KILL EACH OTHER.
IT'S THAT POTENTIAL POWER OF YOURS THAT THE FAIR-FACED NINE-TAILED FOX LIKES SO MUCH.
ZO (WARP)
ZO
ZO
ZO
ZO
DA (DASH)
SHOW IT TO MEEE!

GAIN (CLANG)
HMPH ...!
BA (HOP)
ZA (SKID)
ZA
ZA
IPAKIN (CRACK)
TCH ...!

G-GOT IT!
KUH ...!
YOUNG LORD, BE PREPARED TO PROTECT RINKO!
RINKO, GET ME MY YASUTSUNA!!
THE FIRST MOVE HAS BEEN MADE!
EEEEK!
ZUSA (SKRSH)
SHU (SWF)
THIS SWORD SURE IS HEAVY
YUUTO?
SO IT HAD TO COME TO THIS. WHY'D HE HAVE TO ATTACK...
THE AMAKAWA POWER.
ZA (SW)
THE LIGHT FERRY !!
ZA
KA (FLASH)
KA
...WHEN I DON'T WANNA FIGHT!!?

GAIN (CLAAANG)
SHA (SHK)
!
?
NYAAAN (SPROING)
EH...
すん
...ZURU (SNIFFLE)
SHUN (FADE)
.....!

HA-HA-HA! WHEN THE NOIHARA CRIMSON BLADE SHOWS HER TRUE FORM, THE AMAKAWA HEIR CAN'T UNLEASH HIS SPECIALTY, EH?
BA (FLING)
THAT'S FINE TEAM-WORK!
MUKA (IRK)
ZA (ZSH)
SILENCE!
GIIN (CLANG)
KUH HEE HEE HEE ...!
THE NOIHARA CAT GOD TAKES ON THE SENTOUROU, TESUMA, WITH THE AMAKAWA BOY...
NICE. VERY NICE.
IF HE COULD JUST SHOW OFF A LITTLE MORE OF HIS SKILL, I'D BE SO HAPPY...
KUH HEE HEE!

HA-HA! I WILL NOT DIS-AGREE WITH YOU THERE!
GIIII (CLASH)
YOU'RE JUST LIKE ME, SEE?
YOU LIKE THE FIGHT.
GA (CLANG)
KIN (CLANG)
HOW-EVER.
BASH! (STOMP)
...!
UNLIKE YOU, I SERVE A MASTER!!

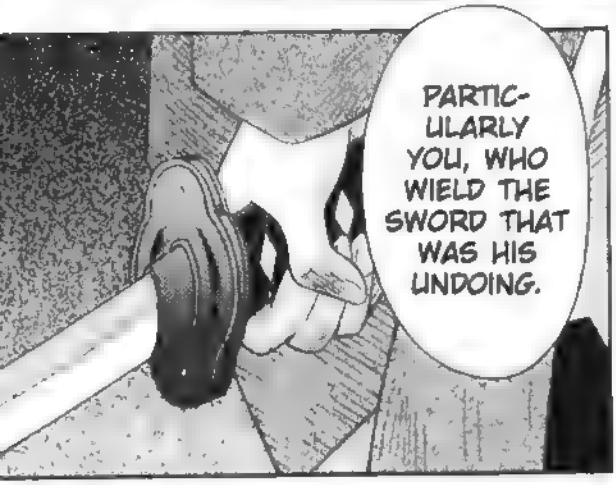
CHA (CHOK)
TCH!
BA! (WHIP)
.....!
ZA (DODGE)
DON (BLAM)
DON
THIS IS HARDLY THE FIRST TIME I HAVE SUDDENLY HAD A GUN PULLED ON ME.
NIYA (SMIRK)
WELL DONE...
...CAT!

Y-YUUTO!?
...HIMARI'S BLADE WHEN SHE LOST CONTROL!
...WAS ABLE TO STOP...
KA (FLASH)
THIS CAN'T BE REAL...
WHOA! WHY'S AN AYAKASHI FIRING A GUN!!?
YOU CAN DO THIS, ME! BELIEVE IN YOUR-SELF!
MY LIGHT FERRY...
I'M ONLY HELPING THE NINE-TAILS OUT BECAUSE I WANT TO SEE THE WORLD SHE'S GOING TO CREATE.
IT'S TRUE. I SERVE NO ONE.
ZUSHAA (SKIDOO)
!

THE WORLD...
...THE NINE-TAILS IS GOING TO CREATE?
WHAT WILL IT BE? "FOX LAND"?

HM... HENCE THE SHY SHUTEN-DOUJI ALSO NUMBERS AMONG HER ALLIES.
HE'S A LITTLE DIFFER-ENT.
HE MERELY DESPISES THOSE WHO BETRAYED HIM, LIKE THE HUMANS.

HER VISION HASN'T CHANGED IN EONS.
SHE WISHES TO CREATE HER OWN WORLD, NOTHING MORE.


PARTIC-ULARLY YOU, WHO WIELD THE SWORD THAT WAS HIS UNDOING.

RATHER THAN DO IT RIGHT OUT IN THE OPEN, SHE'S BEEN BUILDING IT BEHIND THE BACKS OF THE POWERFUL FIGURES OF THE TIMES.
THOSE WHO SUPPORT HER FALL UNDER HER CARE. THOSE WHO OPPOSE HER AND ARE USELESS DIE.

NOW I UNDERSTAND A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT THEM.
THANK YOU FOR THE EXPLA-NATION.
YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T COME HERE FOR A FIGHT TO THE DEATH, RIGHT? THEN...
!
YOU SAY YOU'RE DIFFERENT FROM THEM, BUT THE FACT THAT YOU'RE ATTACKING US MAKES YOU ONE AND THE SAME.
...GO.
LEAVE HERE.
WELL, WELL ...
YUUTO!?

BECAUSE I STILL HAVEN'T SEEN YOUR LIGHT FERRY!!
DA (DASH)
ZABABAAB (ZZZZAP)
!
THAT'S SOME BIG TALK.
BUT IT WON'T DO.
IF YOU WANT TO SEE IT...
SU (SWF)
...TAKE A GOOD, HARD LOOK.
PACHIN (SNAP)

OOH.
!!
KILL
ZAN (SLICE)
!!!
KRR!!

YUUTO!
YOUNG LORD!
ZA (DASH)
KUH!
SFX: TA (TMP) TA TA
I KNOW WHEN TO WITH-DRAW!
IT WAS A TRAP ...
YORO (TEETER)
DARA
DARA (DRIP)
IT'S RARE, YOU SAY...
QUIT IT WITH THE CAT EARS
PIKO (TWITCH)
PIKO
MEEEOW!
GUSHU (SNIFFLE)
I WAS SUR-PRISED BY YOUR RARE BOLD-NESS!
WHAT WAS THAT TECH-NIQUE JUST NOW!?
I WAS SO SCARED IT WOULDN'T WORK.
IT WAS FLAWLESS! THAT IS MY YOUNG LORD!
WHAT IF HE'D SHOT YOU!?
KUH HEE HEE!
AS A MEASURE AGAINST BLOWING YOURSELF UP, YOU'LL WANT TO INCLUDE AN ACTION WITH THE EXPLO-SION.
YOU CAN INVEST YOUR ENERGY INTO ANYTHING AROUND YOU. IT WON'T BE THAT STRONG, BUT IT'LL BE ENOUGH TO STOP SOMEONE IN THEIR TRACKS.
UNLEASH IT IN ONE GO AT YOUR DISCRETION.
ACTUALLY, THAT HITSUGI YAKOUIN GIRL SUGGESTED IT EARLIER.

HI-MARI, DON'T GO TOO FAR.
HE MAY YET HAVE SOME INFORMATION FOR US.
...OH, DEAR. I HAVE TO PURSUE HIM.
TRUST IN YOUR CAT. ♡
I SHALL NOT.
!
KIRA (TWINKLE)
キラ
IT WILL TAKE COUNTLESS HUMANS TO REGROW MY ARM.
GRIT
I FAILED...
ZA (ZIP)
ZA
ZA
ZA

ZUBAN (SLICE)
I KNEW YOU'D BE PASSING THROUGH HERE, KUH-HEE-HEE!
GIH... YOUU!!
UWAH, GROSS! HE'S STILL ALIVE.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
ZARI (CRUNCH)
OKAY!
GOOD JOB PULLING OFF THE SELF-GUILLO-TINE.
ZA (SCUFF)

I HAD AN ORDER TO KILL FROM THE HIGHER-UPS.
I'M A DETEC-TIVE, BUT THIS IS A HIT MAN'S JOB.
YEESH
WHY DID YOU NOT TAKE CARE OF THIS BEFORE MAKING CONTACT WITH THE YOUNG LORD?
YOU'RE SO OVER-PROTECTIVE.
WASN'T IT MORE FUN TO SEE WHAT HAP-PENED ONCE THEY MET?
HMPH!
I SEE. SO HE WAS WHAT YOU WERE AFTER ALL THIS TIME.
...BESIDES, I GOT TO SEE HIS BIG GUNS, THE "LIGHT FERRY."
AND BEST OF ALL ...
...DIDN'T YOU GET TO FEEL THE THRILL OF A BATTLE...
...THAT GETS YOUR BLOOD TO BOILING AND SENDS CHILLS DOWN YOUR SPINE? KUH-HEE-HEE...
!

THRILL ...?
NO. TODAY I DID NOT DRINK, NOR WAS I BATHED IN BLOOD.
ALL IS WELL ...!!
WHAT'S WRONG? THIS WAS YOUR FIRST TIME...
... REPELLING AN ENEMY THROUGH TEAMWORK WITH YUUTO AMAKAWA.
HM. YES.
YES, IT WAS.
SHE IS RIGHT. THE YOUNG LORD AND I COMBINED POWERS...
AND FROM HEREAFTER, THE YOUNG LORD AND I WILL BE...
ADD KUESU TO THE EQUATION, AND WITH BACKUP LIKE THAT, YOUR BELOVED YOUNG LORD IS IN SAFE HANDS.
HOW-EVER!
...THIS WAS A DIFFERENT, MORE FULFILLING SENSA-TION...
MM... IT FELT GOOD, LIKE A WARMTH SPREADING IN MY BOSOM.
SIMPLY PLAYING THE PROTECTOR HAS ITS MERITS TOO, BUT...

YOU, NOIHARA CRIMSON BLADE...

...ARE GONNA DIE!

...A GUARDIAN CANNOT DO HER JOB IF SHE FEARS DEATH.
ZA (RUSTLE) ZA ZA ZA
...AH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
WELL, TELL YUUTO AMAKAWA I SAID HELLO... KUH-HEE-HEE!

YEAH. YOU OKAY, RINKO?
YEAH. THE FACT THAT THE CAT PRINCESS NEVER ONCE TOLD ME TO "RUN AWAY" MIGHT MEAN THAT I HAVE A DUTY TO KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS.
WOW. I'VE SEEN PLENTY OF FIGHTS SO FAR, BUT...
...THIS MIGHT'VE BEEN THE FIRST WHERE I WAS ACTUALLY INVOLVED.
PHEW
AND HIMARI WAS IN HER RIGHT MIND TODAY.
SO IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO BE SCARED.
MROWR!
YEAH.
THAT'S RIGHT. IF WE CAN KEEP DOING WELL LIKE THIS, THEN SOON ENOUGH ...!!
GABA (GLOMP)

MAYBE I WAS AN IDIOT FOR THINKING BETTER OF HER, HUH?
FURA (SHAKE)
.....
HEH... HEH-HEH...
UH-WAH-WAH! HI-HIMARI !!
MEOW, MEOW!!
DOTAZA (THUD)
SO THAT'S WHY YOU LET ME STAAAY!!
ACHOO! =SNIFFLE=
THIS ADORABLE CAT IS GOING TO TAKE HER SWEET TIME PLAYING WITH THE YOUNG LORD!
FURI (SWAT)
WILL YOU KEEP WATCH, RINKO? SEEING AS HOW YOU CANNOT INTERFERE YOURSELF AND ALL.
C'MON! GET OFFA HIM!!
AAH! WAAH !!
YOUNG LORD...

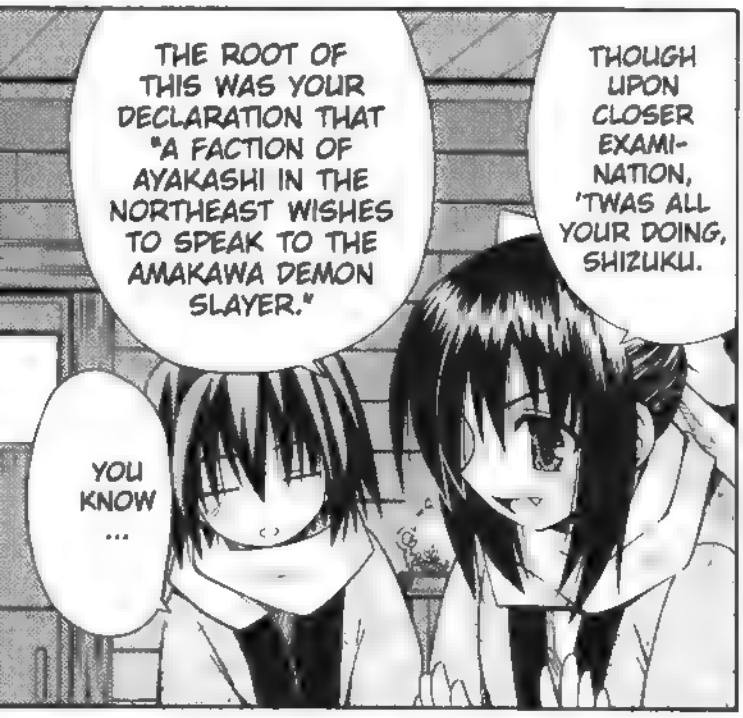
MENAGERIE 40: THE SNOW CAT & THE IMPERFECT BLIZZARD

SHA (SWISH)
YUUTO-SAAAN!
AREN'T YOU GOING TO COME SKIIII?
JA (SWISH)
OOOH... RINKO'S PRETTY GOOD.
SHE DOESN'T HAVE ALL THAT MUCH MORE EXPERIENCE THAN ME, BUT THE DIFFERENCE IN PROGRESS IS STRIKING.

SINCE YOU CAN'T BEAT MY EXPERIENCE, YOU JUST HAVE TO PRACTICE YOURSELF.
ZUSA (SKID)
SKIING IS AN ENGLISH LADY'S SPORT!
TEE-HEE!
BESIDES, I'VE HAD MORE PRACTICE!
AWWW, ARE YOU MOCKING ME FOR BEING SO RELAXED ABOUT IIIIT?
I'M SURPRISED AT HOW GOOD YOU ARE AT THIS TOO, LIZ...
LIZ AND I WILL WORK YOU TILL YOU GET IT! ♡
THIS IS THE YEAR YOU GRADUATE FROM THE SNOWPLOW, YUUTO!
THERE YOU ALL ARE.
I'M THE WORST OF THE WORST
C'MON, I CAN BARELY HANDLE THE BUNNY SLOPE...

OH MY. YOU'RE BOTH SO GOOD AT THIS, RINKO-SAN. LIZ-SAN.
I CAN'T FOLLOW THAT UP.
AH, KOFUYU-SAN. SORRY...
...FOR HOPPING RIGHT ON THE LIFT AFTER ARRIVING INSTEAD OF INTRODUCING OURSELVES...
WELL, WHEN IT COMES TO A MOUNTAIN, WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO DO BUT TO SKI?
YOU SAID IT!
I'M HAPPY YOU'RE ENJOYING YOUR-SELVES.
BUT ARE YOU SURE IT WAS ALL RIGHT?
WHAT?
LEAVING MISS CAT AND MISS SNAKE BY THEM-SELVES, I MEAN.
OH, THOSE TWO...
I'M A HUNDRED PERCENT SURE BEYOND A SHADOW OF A DOUBT THAT THEY HAVE ZERO INTEREST IN SKIING.

MENAGERIE 40: THE SNOW CAT & THE IMPERFECT BLIZZARD


THE ROOT OF THIS WAS YOUR DECLARATION THAT "A FACTION OF AYAKASHI IN THE NORTHEAST WISHES TO SPEAK TO THE AMAKAWA DEMON SLAYER."
THOUGH UPON CLOSER EXAMI-NATION, 'TWAS ALL YOUR DOING, SHIZUKU.
YOU KNOW ...

...AND KAGETSUKI TOUCHED BASE WITH THE LOCAL AYAKASHI WHEN HE HAPPENED TO COME THIS WAY...YOU KNOW.
...THE OTHER DAY, I GOT IN TOUCH WITH MY COMRADES WHO HAD SCAT-TERED...

HAAAH, I DO NOT UNDER-STAND THE YOUNG LORD.
AAAH, NICE AND WARM
PACHI
PACHI (CRACKLE)
ALTHOUGH SPRING APPROACHES, HE INSISTS ON DOING SOME FORM OF MISGUIDED PENANCE ON A SNOWY MOUNTAIN.
YOU KNOW...

SFX: ZUBI (SNIFFLE)

IT WAS YUUTO WHO SAID WE SHOULD GO...
HUH? A MOUNTAIN? WITH POWDERED SNOW? WE GOTTA GO SKIING!
...AND RINKO WANTED TO SKI, SO HER INSISTENCE PUSHED THE IDEA THROUGH... YOU KNOW.
THIS IS NOT...A TRAP, IS IT?
THAT KOFUYU GIRL IS A SNOW SPIRIT.
IF SHE WANTED TO FIGHT, WE WOULD HAVE A ROUGH GO OF IT.
I CONSIDERED THAT POSSIBILITY. THAT'S WHY WE BROUGHT THE TEA SPRITE. SHE'S GOOD IN LOW TEMPS... YOU KNOW.
THOUGH I WAS SURPRISED THAT KUESU JINGUUJI DIDN'T JOIN US...YOU KNOW.

APPARENTLY SHE HAD SOMEBODY SHE HAD TO SPEAK WITH.
MOST LIKELY YAKOUIN.
I SEE...
BRR, IT'S COLD... YOU KNOW.

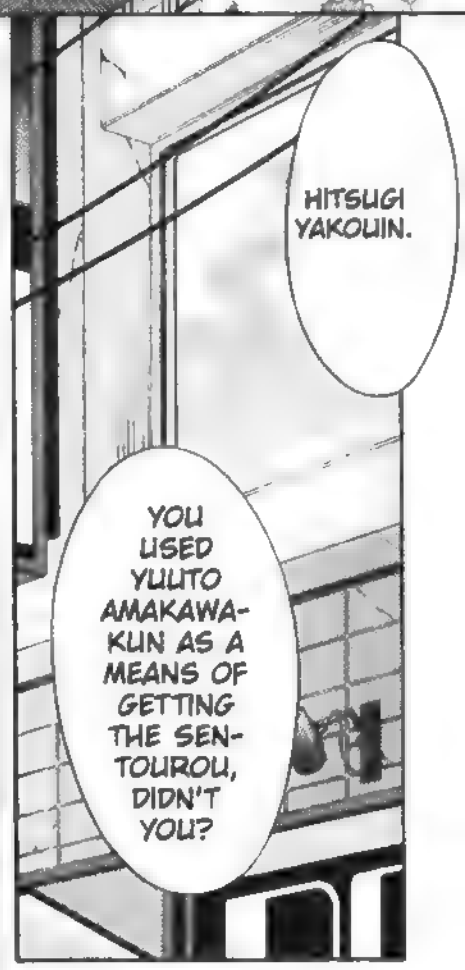
YOU, NOIHARA CRIMSON BLADE...
...ARE GONNA DIE!

HMPH. EVEN THE YAKOUINS CANNOT SEE THAT FAR INTO THE FUTURE.
IT WAS AN UTTER BLUFF. NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
I'M ALREADY FROZEN A LITTLE...YOU KNOW.
...BUT IF THE TEMPERATURE DROPS ANY LOWER, I REALLY MAY PERISH...
SFX: KIIIIN (SHNNNG)
NOW, NOW. YOU MAY BE KOFUYU'S GUESTS, BUT WE CAN'T HAVE YOU DOING THAT.
I SUPPORT YOU FULLY... YOU KNOW.
WE SHOULD BURN THIS BUILDING DOWN...
BURN, BABY, BURN YOU KNOW
IN A GRAND MANNER
OH, THE INN-KEEPER. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPI-TALITY, GOOD SIR.
DON'T MENTION IT. WE GLADLY WELCOME YOUNG LADIES HERE.
YOU KNOW.
BUT ARE YOU TWO...
...THE TYPE OF AYAKASHI WHO ARE SUSCEP-TIBLE TO THE COLD?

!!
KIN (GLARE)

INNKEEPER...
HUMAN, JUST WHAT ARE YOU... YOU KNOW?

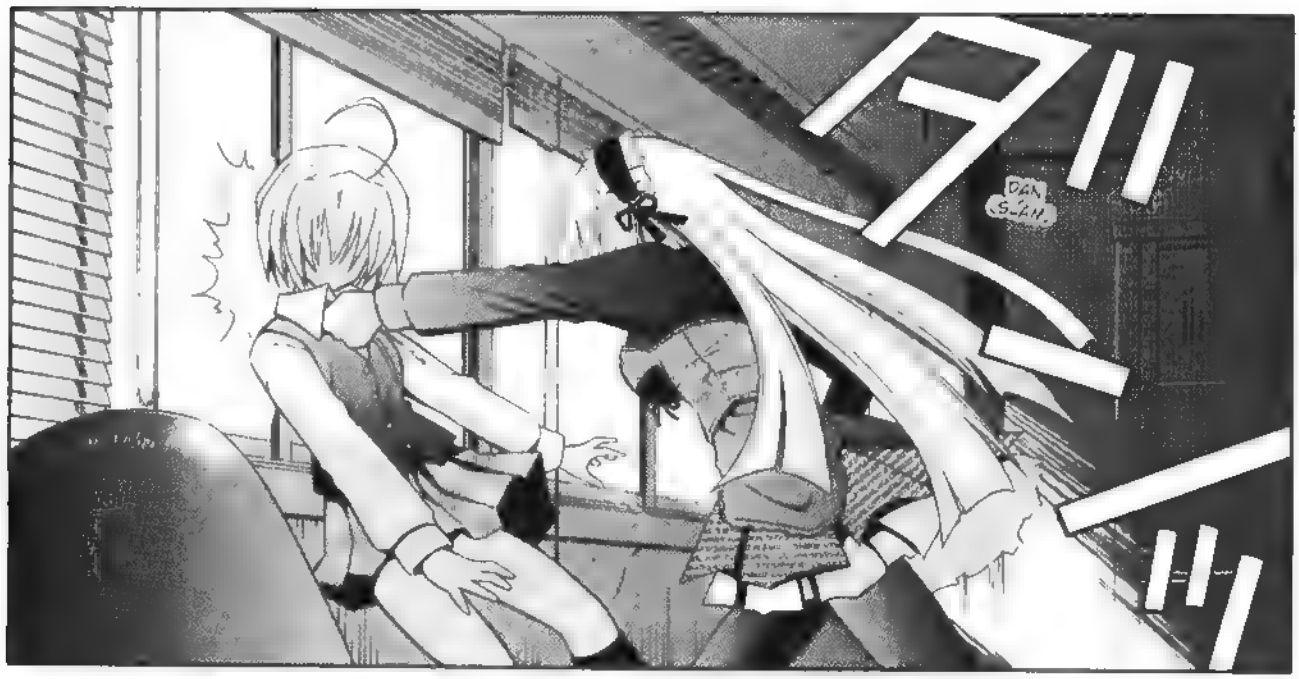
OH, THAT?
WELL, THAT'S ONLY 'COS YOU NEVER GIVE ME ANY INFO ON THE AMAKAWA BOY.
ALL I DID WAS GO TO SEE HIM AFTER I ACCESSED THE PUBLIC DATA BANK AND DID A LITTLE LEG-WORK.

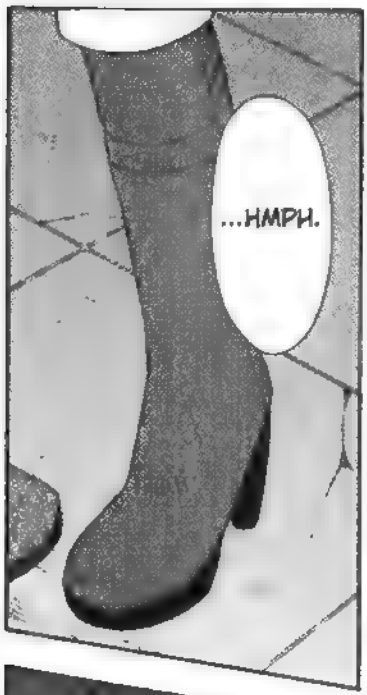

HITSUGI YAKOUIN.
YOU USED YUUTO AMAKAWA-KUN AS A MEANS OF GETTING THE SEN-TOUROU, DIDN'T YOU?

NOT ONLY DID I GET TO SEE SOME VERY INTERESTING THINGS, BUT I ALSO FINISHED OFF THE SEN-TOUROU.
IT WAS A GAMBLE WITH A RATHER HIGH RETURN.
HYPOCRISY LIKE NOBLESSE OBLIGE ONLY HAS VALUE WHEN IT'S PUT INTO PRACTICE.
YOU HACKED INTO THAT WHEN YOU HAVE NO PER-MIS-SION TO?
DID THE TARGET MEAN SO MUCH TO YOU THAT YOU WOULD TAKE SUCH A RISK?
YOU... ARE A FIEND.
ALL DETEC-TIVES ARE.
YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH VIDOCQ, AREN'T YOU?
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO BE SCOLDED THIS WAY BY YOU OF ALL PEOPLE, KUH-HEE-HEE...
ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT YOU JINGUUJI, WHO TOOK WHAT-EVER MEANS NECESSARY TO GAIN POWER, HAVE NEVER DONE ANYTHING WRONG?

FOR AGES NOW, YOUR FAMILY'S BEEN LOOKED DOWN UPON FOR CRAVING NOTHING BUT THE PURSUIT OF POWER...
HOW FAR DO YOU HAVE TO GO UNTIL YOU'RE FINALLY SATISFIED?
PIKU (TWITCH)
SILENCE! YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT ME!
I DON'T, THAT'S WHY I HAVE MY DOUBTS, KUESU.
AND YET THE JINGUUJI STILL CANNOT BREAK FREE OF THE PAST AND HAVE A COMPLEX...
ALREADY, LESS THAN HALF OF THE ORIGINAL TWELVE FAMILIES ARE ACTIVE. THERE ARE FEW LEFT TO LOOK DOWN ON YOU NOW.
IN OTHER WORDS, WE COME FROM A SHARED HISTORY WHERE YOUR FAMILY AND THE AMAKAWA WERE MISTREATED, AND WE YAKOUINS WERE HANDLED LIKE TUMORS.
THEY LOOK DOWN UPON THE WEAK AND HARBOR FEAR OVER UNFAMILIAR ABILITIES...
...EXCLUDING THE YAKOUIN, THE TWELVE FAMILIES SUPPRESS POWER WITH POWER.

BUT NOW THE POWER MAP HAS BEEN REWRITTEN.
YOU'VE COME TO POSSESS MAGIC BEYOND THAT OF YOUR MOTHER.
AND NOW YOU'RE CRITICIZING AND LOOKING DOWN ON OTHERS AS THOUGH TO CLEAR YOURSELF OF THE HUMILIATION.
!!
AND JUST LIKE HOW THEY USED TO DO IT TOO...
...YOU'RE STARTING TO FEAR THAT WHICH IS NOT FAMILIAR TO YOU.
KUH-HEE-HEE. THAT'S RIGHT. NAMELY...
...THE BOND BETWEEN THE CAT GOD AND THE AMAKAWA BOY, RIGHT?


DAN
SLAM


...HMPH.

PLEASE BE KIND.
KUH HEE HEE. SCARY... I'M SLOW.

...IF YOU PRATTLE ON ANY-MORE, I'LL SEW THAT MOUTH OF YOURS SHUT, UNDER-STAND?

THAT'S A WON-DERFUL THING.
...!
I'M JEAL-OUS EVEN.
IT SEEMS THAT WHILE YOU WERE IN ENGLAND, YOU CAME IN CONTACT WITH A TREASURY OF THIS WORLD'S TRUTHS AND MONUMENTAL KNOWLEDGE.

BUT DID IT ONLY COST YOU YOUR BEAUTIFUL BLACK HAIR?
OR DID YOU LOSE SOMETHING GREATER IN EXCHANGE FOR IT, KUESU?

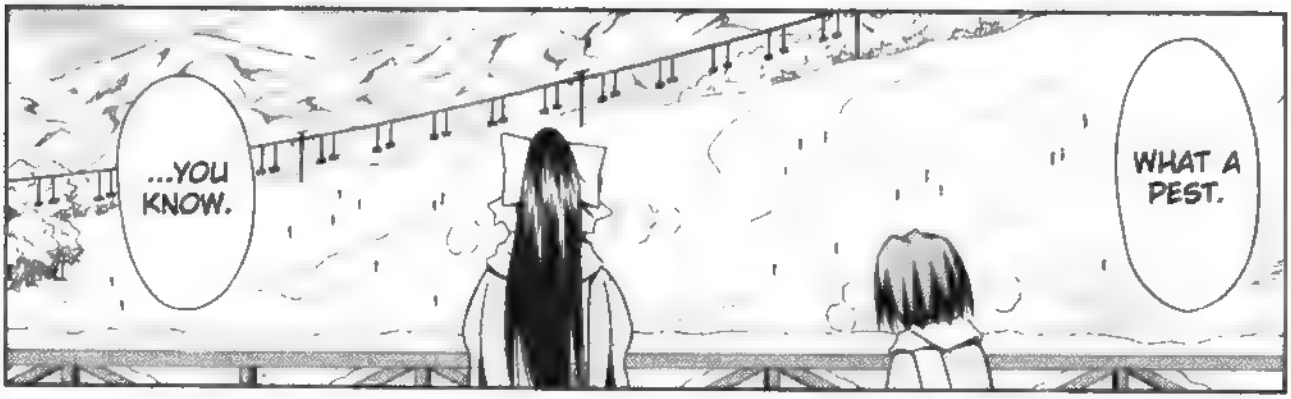
KUKU
GASHAAN (CRASH)
DOKA (THUD)
I'M SENSING THAT WHATEVER IT WAS, THAT'S WHAT THE AMAKAWA BOY WANTS MOST FROM YOU.
I'VE GRASPED THINGS YOU WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND.
NOW WOULD YOU PLEASE NOT INTRUDE ANY FURTHER INTO MY DOMAIN ...?
.....
I LIKE YOU.
KUH-HEE!

COMPLETE FORMS ARE BEAUTIFUL, BUT...
...IT'S THE IMPERFECT THINGS THAT I FIND MORE INTERESTING AND ALLURING...
I WISH YOU COULD ALWAYS REMAIN INCOMPLETE WHILE STRIVING TO BE WHOLE... KUH-HEE-HEE!
FURA (SWAY)
HMPH.
PI (BING)
I DON'T FIND IT FLATTERING TO BE ADMIRED BY A PERVERTED DETECTIVE.
OUCH, THAT HURT.
KUH HEE HEE!

OW, OW...
UUH...
...W-WAIT, RINKO! HOLD ON!
UWAH!
EEK!
BOKO (WHUMP)
HERE YOU GO, YUUTO-SAN.
AAH, THANK YOU.
I TOLD YOU, I CAN'T HANDLE ALL THESE MOGULS!!
TERE (BLUSH)
TERE
SHEESH, YUUTO. YOU'RE SO SCAN-DALOUS.
GUIIIIN (YANK)
ALLEY-OOP! ♪
HUH?

OHHH NOOOO! ♡♡♡
ZUDE (SPLAT)
HOLD IT!!
HEEY!!
D-DON'T PULL DOWN YOUR OWN ZIPPER!!
AAAH, NOT THAT.
HOOOO
-ZIIIP-
KOFUYU-SAN, YOU STAY OUT OF THIS!!
WHEEE! ♡
LOOKS FUN!
GABA (GLOMP)
MMMM

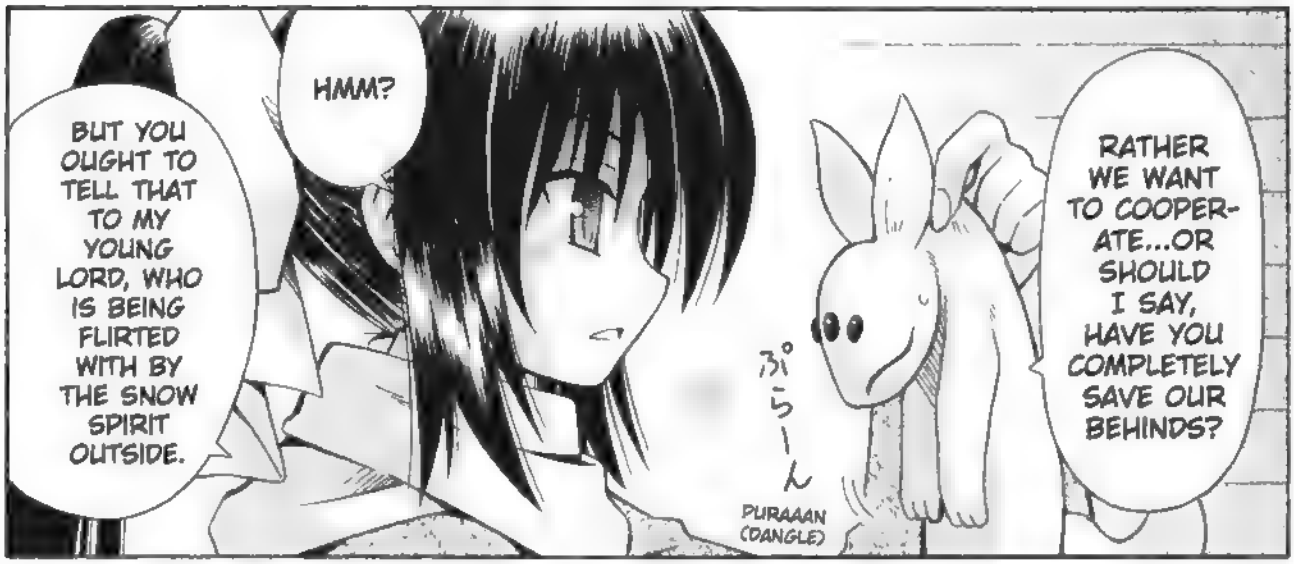
...YOU KNOW.
...THEY LOOK LIKE THEY ARE ENJOYING THEMSELVES TREMENDOUSLY.
HAAH

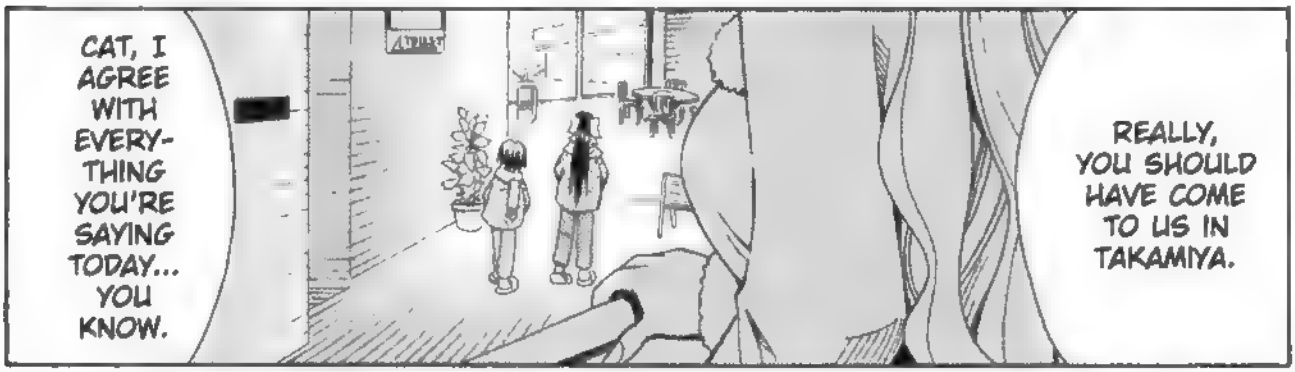

...YOU KNOW.
WHAT A PEST.

BISHU (FLING)

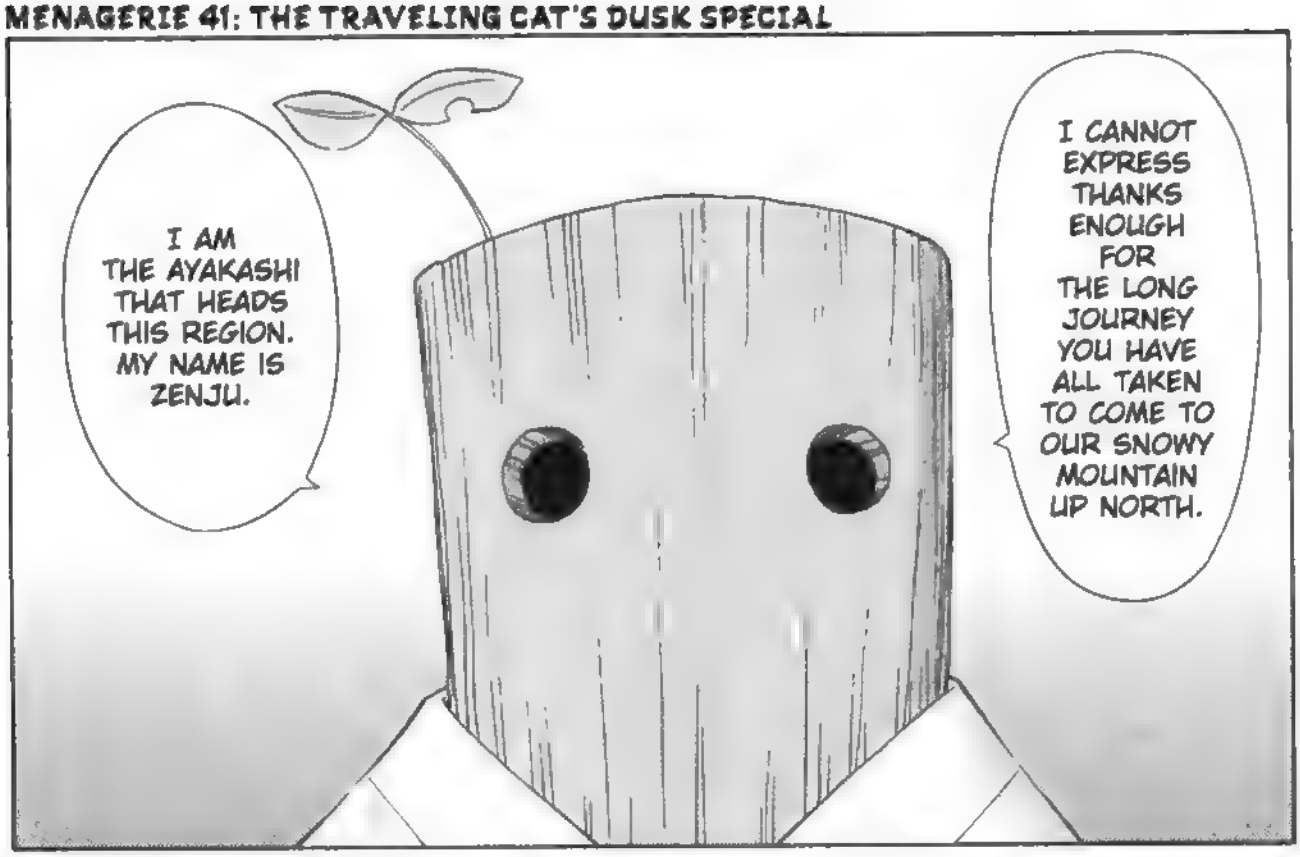
KYU (CLIP)
KYU
MM-HM.
YOU KNOW.

BISHA (SPLAT)
NGO (BONK)
Y-YUUTO !?
WHERE DID THAT COME FROM ...?
A-ARE YOU ALL RIIIGHT -!!?
LET US HIE INSIDE.
AND EAT SOME HOT RAMEN... YOU KNOW.
I WISH YOU WOULD START TRUSTING US AL-READY.
I HATE TO DISAP-POINT YOU, BUT THAT SNOW SPIRIT ISN'T GIVING OFF AN EVIL AURA... YOU KNOW.
SO SHE IS NOT AN ENEMY. VERY WELL.
NEITHER WE NOR THE HUMAN OWNERS OF THIS LODGE MEAN TO TRICK YOU.


HMM?
BUT YOU OUGHT TO TELL THAT TO MY YOUNG LORD, WHO IS BEING FLIRTED WITH BY THE SNOW SPIRIT OUTSIDE.
RATHER WE WANT TO COOPER-ATE...OR SHOULD I SAY, HAVE YOU COMPLETELY SAVE OUR BEHINDS?
ぷらーん
PURAAAN (DANGLE)


CAT, I AGREE WITH EVERY-THING YOU'RE SAYING TODAY... YOU KNOW.
REALLY, YOU SHOULD HAVE COME TO US IN TAKAMIYA.

MOKYU
もきゅ
MOKYU (MUNCH)
もきゅ


I AM THE AYAKASHI THAT HEADS THIS REGION. MY NAME IS ZENJU.
I CANNOT EXPRESS THANKS ENOUGH FOR THE LONG JOURNEY YOU HAVE ALL TAKEN TO COME TO OUR SNOWY MOUNTAIN UP NORTH.

THOUGH I DON'T BLAME HIM SINCE THIS IS SUCH A LOOSE CHARAC-TER...YOU KNOW.
DO NOT LAUGH, YOUNG LORD. MIND YOUR MANNERS.
HA HA HA ...!

HE MAY LOOK LIKE A TALKING STUMP, BUT HE'S WHAT YOU CALL AN OSHIRASAMA. AN AYAKASHI WITH DIVINE CHARACTER-ISTICS. ♡
KOFUYU! THAT EX-PLANATION BARELY SCRATCHES THE SUR-FACE!!
KASA (RUSTLE)
KASA
THAT WILL DO.

MORE IMPORTANTLY, I BELIEVE KOFUYU HAS SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL US.
I DO NOT MIND.

YES. IT IS ABOUT TWO OF JAPAN'S TOP DEMONS.
TAMAMO-NO-MAE AND SHUTEN-DOUJI.
JUST SO.
THE OTHER DAY, AFTER SPEAKING WITH THE KASHA, WE RECEIVED SOME ADVICE.
RATHER THAN STAND UP AGAINST THIS GREAT THREAT INDIVIDUALLY, WE DECIDED TO TAKE A COLLABORATIVE STANCE TO FACE THEM.
SIMPLY PUT, SINCE WE'RE SUPER-WEAK, WE'RE ASKING FOR ALL YOUR HELP.
...
YOU'RE SO AWFUL AT EXPRESSING YOURSELF!
THOUGH IT'S TRUE WE ARE WEAK
HUH. I GUESS IT'S 'COS OF THE IMAGES IN THE FOLK-TALES OF THE NORTH-EAST AND HOKKAIDO AREAS, BUT...
...I ALWAYS HAD THE IMPRES-SION THAT THESE WERE STRONG AYA-KASHI.
IT'S TRUE, THERE WERE STRONG ONES.
.....

MENAGERIE 41: THE TRAVELING CAT'S DUSK SPECIAL

I HAVE NO OBJECTIONS. WE DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH FIGHTING POWER, BUT...
GU (CLENCH)
...IF IT MEANS PEOPLE AND AYAKASHI WORKING TOGETHER, THEN THAT'S JUST WHAT I WANT.
FUKU FUKU (GUCK)
HM, I TRULY AM THANKFUL THAT THERE ARE DEMON SLAYERS LIKE YOU OUT THERE.
JUST A MOMENT.

THERE WERE ONCE STRONG AYAKASHI HERE.
DOES THAT MEAN THAT THEY WERE ALL DISPOSED OF BY DEMON SLAYERS WHO MOVED TO THE AREA?

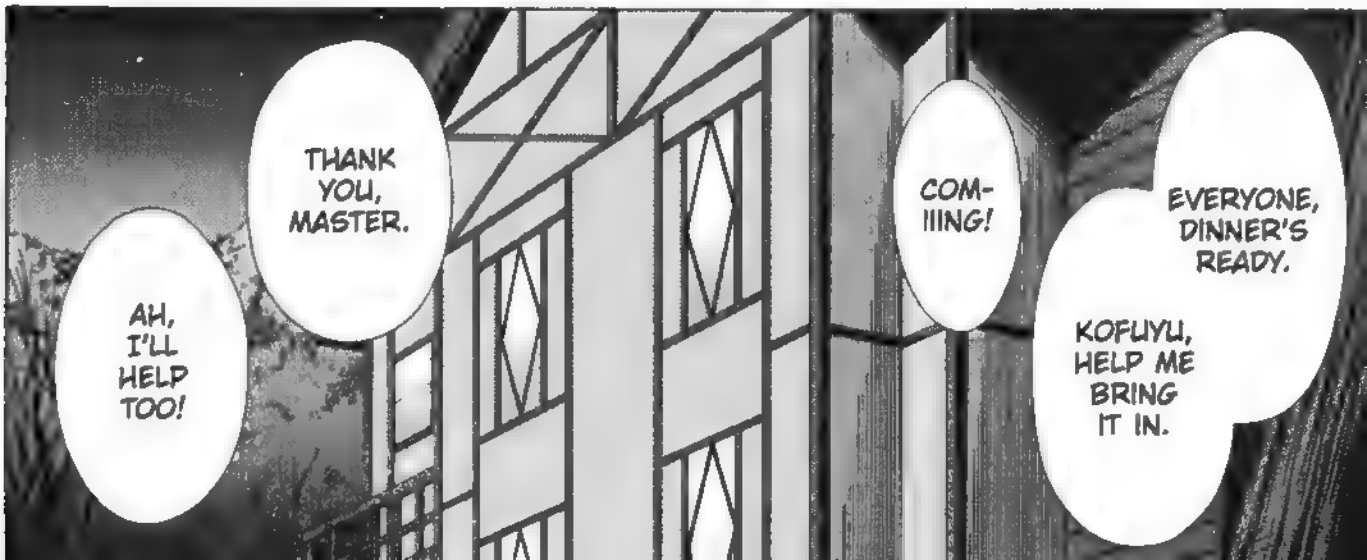
DO YOU REALLY NOT HARBOR ANY ILL WILL?
HI-MARI...

THERE IS SOMETHING I WISH TO ASK...
DO YOU ALL TRULY NOT FEEL A SENSE OF ANTAGONISM FOR DEMON SLAYERS?

...WE DO NOT LIKE VIOLENT BEINGS, BE THEY MAN OR AYAKASHI.
WE ONLY WISH TO PROTECT THIS AREA BECAUSE THE KINDNESS THE INNKEEPERS HAVE SHOWN SUPPORTS COEXISTENCE BETWEEN PEOPLE AND AYAKASHI.
THAT IS ALL.
...I SEE.
MY APOLOGIES, ZENJU AND YOUNG LORD, FOR PUTTING A DAMPER ON THE PROCEED-INGS.
YUUTO'S SO NAIVE THAT HE NEEDS THAT KIND OF VIGILANCE AROUND HIM...YOU KNOW.
NAIVE
PEOPLE AND AYAKASHI GETTING ALONG... WHEN I HEAR IT AGAIN...
...I FEEL LIKE I'VE BECOME ONE OF THE CHARACTERS IN THOSE FOLKTALES.

'KAAAY!
NOW THAT THE CONVER-SATION IS ALL SETTLED...
...HOW ABOUT SOME TEA IN HONOR OF THIS NEW ALLIANCE!? ♡
THIS IS A JAPANESE CUSTOM, ISN'T IIIT?

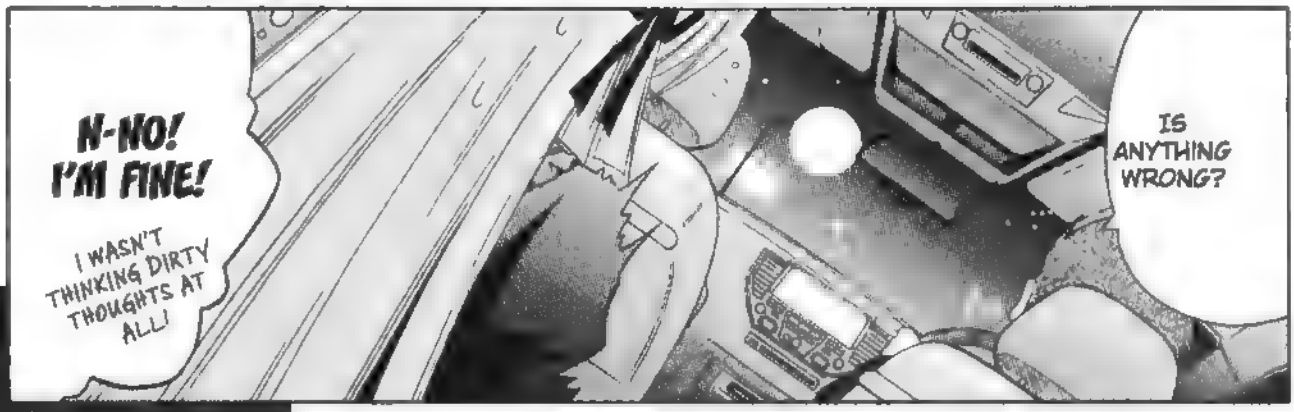
OOH, THIS IS QUITE GOOD. IT FEELS LIKE IT HAS ADDED ANOTHER TREE RING TO ME.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
MROWR! HOT!
GUBI (GULP)
WHERE DID THIS PARTY SPAWN FROM ...?
IS THIS REALLY THE NEXT LOGICAL STEP?


EVERYONE, DINNER'S READY.
KOFUYU, HELP ME BRING IT IN.
COM-IIING!
THANK YOU, MASTER.
AH, I'LL HELP TOO!

HA-HA. I AGREE, CONSIDERING THE KINDS OF CONVERSATIONS YOUNG LADIES YOUR AGE HAVE.
...WERE YOU EAVESDROPPING?
SO, DID YOU GET TO TALK WITH HITSUGI YAKOUIN?
YES. MORE OR LESS.
BUT IT WAS OVER PRIVATE MATTERS, SO I'M NOT OBLIGATED TO TELL YOU THE CONTENTS OF OUR CHAT.
BY THE WAY, IT SEEMS YUUTO AMAKAWA-KUN AND HIS FRIENDS LEFT FOR A TRIP TO THE HOT SPRINGS.
WHY DIDN'T YOU GO ALONG WITH THEM?
!
EVEN IF I DID, THEY WOULDN'T LAST HALF A DAY.
OF COURSE NOT. I DIDN'T PLANT ANY BUGS OR CAMERAS AT HER PLACE.
WELL, I SUPPOSE THAT'S TRUE.

I DON'T NEED ONE!!
I WISH YOU WOULD TAKE A VACATION WHILE THE MOVEMENTS OF THE NINE-TAILS REMAIN HIDDEN.
WHY SHOULD I GO ON A TRIP TO CONSPIRE WITH SOME NORTHERN AYAKASHI!?
...BUT—
I'VE ALWAYS HAD A PROBLEM WITH CONDESCENSION!
EEK! Y-YUU-CHAN!
BASHA (SPLASH)
ばしゃ
WAH! SORRY, KUESU!
I D-D-DIDN'T REALIZE THIS WAS A SHARED BATH.
OH... YUU-CHAN, NOT SO...
IS IT MY... YOU WANT TO SEE?
KUESU...
ハァハァ
SFX DOKI (BADUM) DOKI
AH, DON'T... YUU-CHAN, WE CAN'T...
AAH... AHN!
KUESU-UUU!!
HFF! HFF!

MISS.
...MISS!
ACK!


IS ANYTHING WRONG?
N-NO! I'M FINE!
I WASN'T THINKING DIRTY THOUGHTS AT ALL!

...MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE GONE TO THE HOT SPRINGS AFTER ALL.
UH, IT'S A LITTLE LATE FOR THAT.

...THAT REMINDS ME, I CHALLENGED THAT CAT TO SEE WHO WOULD GET THEM FIRST.

HMPH. WHEN THAT FOX AND DEMON ARE DEFEATED...
...I'LL BE ABLE TO GET AS LOVEY-DOVEY WITH YUU-CHAN AS I LIKE...

KUH HEE HEE...
IT'S DANGER-OUS TO SPEAK YOUR THOUGHTS ALOUD.
YOU NEVER KNOW WHO MIGHT OVER-HEAR YOU.
THE CAT GOD AND KUESU...
JA (CHAK)
IF THEY CAN JUST MANAGE TO THROW OFF ALL THEIR SHACKLES, THEY'LL BE ABLE TO SMASH THE IMPERFECT FORMS OF THE NINE-TAILS AND SHUTEN.
KUH HEE HEE!
THOUGH NOT WITH-OUT PAYING AT LEAST A LITTLE PRICE... THAT IS.
WON'T YOU TELL ME...
...A LITTLE MORE ABOUT IT?
BOU (FWOOM)

-\CLICK/-
I ONLY SAID THAT ALOUD 'COS I KNEW YOU WERE LISTENING.
THOUGHTS?
...KUH-HEE-HEE. HARDLY.
DOON (BOOOM)
IT'S JUST THAT MY OFFICE IS BEING FUMIGATED FOR RATS. KUH-HEE-HEE.
AH, HELLO. KUESU?
WOULD YOU COME BACK HERE AND PICK ME UP?
WAS ANYBODY INSIDE?
CALL 911!
A TSUCHI-MIKADO-CRAFTED SHIKIGAMI BOMB.
I'D SAY THE DAMAGE WAS MINIMAL, WOULDN'T YOU?
SOME-BODY CALL THE POLICE!!
WH-WHAT THE—!? AN EXPLO-SION!?
SFX: OOOOO (WHOOOO)

MANGAN.
REACH, DOUBLE SEQUENCE. DORA-DORA.
—I AM GOING OUT.
...HMPH. DON'T GET SO FULL OF YOURSELF JUST 'COS OF THAT HAND COMBO... YOU KNOW.
I'LL SEND YOU FLYING IN THE LAST ROUND ...!
じゃらじゃら JARA JARA (RATTLE)
THE TYPE WHO WAITS IT OUT FOR THE BIG CASH IN.
APOLO-GIES, MIZUCHI.
YOU OWE ME 4,000 POINTS
I AM GOING TO HAVE TO ASK FOR YOUR EASTERN SPOT.
Fu Fu Fu!
HEAVY ON DEFENSE, THEN SWIFT TO ATTACK. ALWAYS HAS A WINNING HAND AND KEEPS THE PRESSURE ON.
WHY IS A YOUNG GIRL LIKE ME SPENDING HER TIME PLAYING MAH-JONGG WHEN SHE COULD BE HITTING THE SLOPES ...?
かちゃかちゃ
THE TYPE WHO DOESN'T GET ALL THE RULES AND JUST GOES WITH THE FLOW.
I SEE SHE WON'T REQUIRE THE GENTLE TREAT-MENT.
じゃら JARA
HM, SHE IS MERCI-LESS.
JARA

SFX: KACHA (CLACK) KACHA

WHO, ME?
BY THE WAY, HUMAN GIRL.
YOU'RE LIKE THE OWNER OF THIS ESTABLISHMENT IN THAT YOU HAVE A HEART WHICH SYMPATHIZES WITH AYAKASHI.
UH...
I USED TO TREAT THEM LIKE MONSTERS
YOU KNOW.
WELL, WE WENT THROUGH MUCH WHEN WE FIRST MET, THOUGH.
BEFORE I KNEW IT, I GUESS MY ABILITY TO ADAPT JUST KICKED IN.
WELL, SOME STUFF HAD TO HAP-PEN FIRST ...
I DON'T NEED THIS ONE.
HIMARI?
THIS IS A GOOD OPPOR-TUNITY TO COMMEND YOU A BIT.
...WITHOUT YOU TOO, RINKO, I WOULD NOT HAVE ADJUSTED TO LIFE IN TAKAMIYA AS MUCH AS I HAVE.
BUT EVEN IF I HAD THE YOUNG LORD...

YOU HAVE MY THANKS, RINKO.
PLEASE TREAT ME KINDLY HEREAFTER AS WELL.
MROWR.
WHA—!?
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO SAY THAT ALL OVER AGAIN?
IT'S EMBARRASSING.
KAAA (BLUUUSH)
かあ
AND I'LL TREAT YOU KINDLY. ALL RIGHT!

STOP THAT, YOU GUYS.
I'M TOSSING THIS!
HOLD IT!!
RINKO'S ONE OF THE BEST...YOU KNOW.
YOU KNOW.
I AM HAPPY THAT THERE ARE HUMANS LIKE HER IN THE CITIES TOO.
TCH. WHAT WERE YOU THINKING? STUPID RINKO... YOU KNOW.
INSIDE HAND TRIPLE RUN
THAT'S HARSH
HUH!?
AH, ME TOO.
I'M GOING OUT.
BAM-BOO
TAH
BIKU TWITCH
PHEW...
AAAH. SKIING SURE IS HARD ON THE BODY.
MY KNEES ARE STILL KILLING ME.

.....
COEXISTENCE BETWEEN HUMANS AND AYAKASHI... THAT'S BEEN IN PLACE HERE SINCE LONG AGO.
SEE! IF YOU JUST WORK AT IT, IT'S POSSIBLE!
IF MORE PEOPLE CAN BE LIKE ME AND RINKO AND THE INNKEEPER, THEN I JUST KNOW IT...!
YUUTO-SAMA.
GU (CLENCH)
I'VE COME TO WASH YOUR BACK! ♡
BASHA (SPLASH)

YUUTO-SAMA, YOU'RE PROTECTING US FROM THE THREAT OF THE NINE-TAILS.
ALL I CAN DO TO THANK YOU...
KO-KO-KOFUYU-SAN! YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT, REALLY!
EEEK!
PLEASE DON'T BE SO RESERVED.
PIIII (FWEEET)
THEY SAY HEROES LOOOVE A SENSUAL TIME!
...IS THIS. ♡
GYUU (HUG)
...!!
NOW DO AS YOU WISH WITH ME! ♡
-SMUSH-
-SMUSH-
AS I WI-WI-WI-WISH!?

HOT SPRINGS MILK TEA (UNLESS IT'S MINE) IS FORBIDDEN!!
PURUN (JIGGLE)
ZABAAAN (KERSPLOSH)

HIMARI-SAN AND THE OTHERS STARTED PLAYING THIS GAME I DIDN'T KNOW, AND I HAD TIME ON MY HANDS ANYWAY.
LOST A LOT OF BLOOD
WEREN'T YOU RELAXING WITH EVERYONE ELSE...?

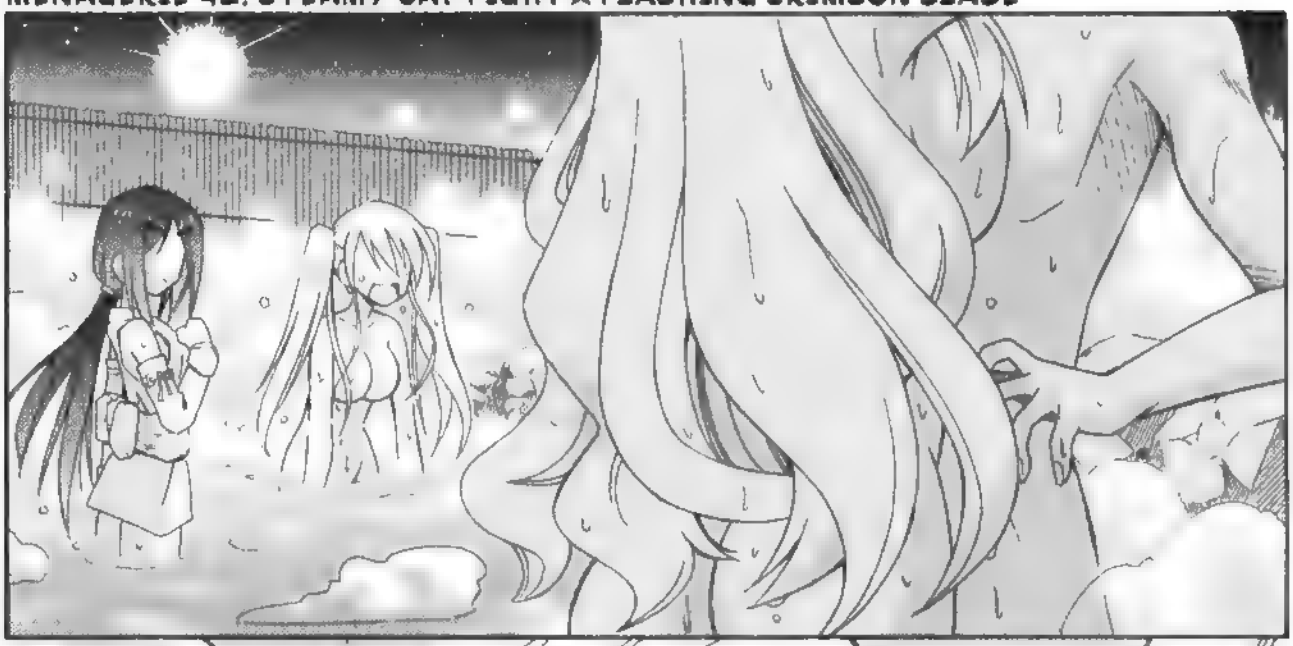
I CAN COME AND GO FROM MY TRUE FORM WITHIN A LIMITED RANGE.
EH HEH!
L-LIZ, WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY—
GUH-HAAH!
BUBA (SPLORT)

SERVICING YUUTO-SAN IS A JOB FOR A MAID LIKE ME.
OWAAAH...
UMM, NO. I CAN'T ALLOW OUR GUESTS TO TROUBLE THEM-SELVES...
HMM... VERY WELL, I WILL LEAVE HIS BACK TO YOU, LIZ-SAN.
SURU (SLIP)
FWHOA!
I'LL HANDLE THE FRONT... ♡
EEEP!!
TSUUU (TOUCH)
SC-SC-SCAN-DAL-OUS!
YUUTO-SAMA, NOW YOU MAY KNOW ME AS A SPIRIT OF THE SNOW, BUT I'M MUCH WARMER ON THE INSIDE, YOU SEE?
I PROMISE I WON'T GIVE YOU FROST-BITE
IN-IN-INSIDE!?

MY INSIDES ARE A SOMEWHAT HOT LEMON TEA, BUT...
...I CAN ALSO COOL IT DOWN SO IT DOESN'T BURN YOU!!
MY... MY...
KAAA (BLUSH)
あぁ
PASHA (SPLISH)
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY INSIDES!?
LEMON TEA!?
BASHA (SPLASH)
ぼしゃ
!
OHH, YUUTO-SAMA, SO YOU'RE THE TYPE WHO LIKES TO GET GIRLS TALKING ABOUT THAT SORT OF THING.
UM, TH-THAT'S TOO EM-BARRASS-ING TO SAY OUT LOUD~!
KUNE (SQUIRM)
KUNE
くねくね
NOW LOOK HERE!
DON'T SUDDENLY CHANGE THE SUBJECT
.....

I'M SORRY, MISS.
WE DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE HERE WHEN WE WERE GETTING ROWDY...
SO SOME-ONE ELSE WAS HERE.
U U!
"SHE'S NOT TRYING TO COVER UP AT ALL
—
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.
UH...
GUI GYANKO
BASHA
WAH !!

...MM-HM.
YOU'RE GROWING RIGHT ALONG.
WHAT... DO YOU...
WHO ARE YOU ...?
EEE ...!
-SNIFF-
GYU (HUG)
F-FOR HER TO SUDDENLY EMBRACE HIM LIKE THAT IN THE BUFF, THIS WOMAN IS NO ORDINARY PERSON!
IF YOU STAY STANDING, YOU'LL CATCH A CHILL, YOU KNOW?
DO YOU KNOW EACH OTHER?



PURIIIN
(JIGGLE)

WH-WHO IS THAT LADY ...?
A PATRON WHO HAS COME TO USE THE HOT SPRINGS BUT ISN'T REGISTERED AT THE INN. THOUGH I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS...
BASHA
BASHA (SPLISH)

UH...
...EXCUSE ME, BUT WOULD YOU LET ME GO... PLEASE?

WHY? I THOUGHT MEN WERE SUPPOSED TO LIKE... NAKED WOMEN.

EXCUSE ME... YOU'RE UPSETTING YUUTO-SAN.
WHAT DO YOU SAY WE MAKE THIS A WHOLESOME BATHING EXPERIENCE FOR EVERY-ONE?
BO (PHISH)
LIZ!!
!?

MENAGERIE 42:
STEAMY CAT FIGHT☆FLASHING CRIMSON BLADE

EEEK!!
LIZ!!
BASHAA (SPLOOSH)
GATATATA (CLATTER)
LIZ-SAN!?
LIZ-SAN!
Y-YOU! WHY, YOU ...!!
BASHA
WHAT A LET-DOWN... YOU CAN'T FIGURE OUT MY TRUE IDENTITY WITHOUT ME UN-LEASHING MY AYA-KASHI AURA.
!

TH-THIS IS AN AYA-KASHI AURA!?
DON'T TELL ME SHE'S...
ボゥ
BOU (WOOM)
ウィ
SHUBA (WISH)

LIZ!!
LIZ-SAN, YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
U FU FU FU! ♡

I AM THE IMMORTAL TEA SPRITE, LIZLET L. CHELSIE!!
I'LL LET YOU IN ON A MAID'S SECRET.
KIRA (TWINKLE)
SO LONG AS MY TEA-CUP'S SAFE, I'M INVIN-CIBLE!!
EH HEH!
UH, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO GO THAT FAR.
YOU'RE BETTER OFF HIDING THAT FACT.
-JIGGLE-
.....
I- IT'LL BE FINE!
AFTER ALL, WE'RE STRONG! SUPER-STRONG EVEN!
-TMP-

'COS WE HAVE HIMARI-SAN!!
ZAAA (WHOOSH)
GAGIN (CLAAANG)
BASHA (SPLASH)

HIMARI-SAN!
HIMARI!
I SHALL BE INTERROGATING YOU TWO LATER AS TO WHY YOU ARE SHARING A BATH WITH THE YOUNG LORD.
LIZ AND KOFUYU.
!!
BUT EITHER WAY...
WELL, WELL...
ZA (ZIP)
ZA
ZA

KUH KUH KUH ...
YOU HAVE GROWN QUITE A BIT SINCE I LAST SAW YOU.
ZA (SPLISH)
EH, NINE-TAILS?
BOIIIIN (BOUNCE)
...TCH!
SO BOTH I AND THIS WENCH ARE BIGGER THAN ME

HIMARI, DON'T LET DOWN YOUR GUARD. SHUTEN-DOUJI MIGHT BE NEARBY TOO.
UNDER-STOOD.
TH-TH-TH-THIS LADY IS ...!?
NINE-TAILS... TAMAMO-NO-MAE!?
AWA (PANIC)
AINA
BASHA (SPLASH)

...NOW DO STOP EXPOSING YOURSELF LIKE THAT.
GET YOURSELF A TOWEL.
HUH? UH-WAH-WAH-WAH!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SHIZUKU!? WHAT'S GOING ON!?
ZENJU, RAISE A BARRIER AROUND THE INN, BUT DON'T LET THE HUMANS OUTSIDE SENSE IT... YOU KNOW.
KIN (GLINT)
MM, ROGER.
I'D HEARD THAT SHE HAD STEALTH ABILITIES, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT SHE'D GET IN HERE.
I WAS SO CLOSE TO WINNING!
SHIZUKU, I'M TALKING TO YOU!!
IT'S TAMAMO-NO-MAE... THE FAIR-FACED NINE-TAILS WE MENTIONED BEFORE... YOU KNOW.
ZOKU (CHILL)
YOU MEAN ONE OF THE TOP THREE DEMONS IN JAPAN?
THE DEMON WHO'S EATING AYAKASHI AND WHO YUUTO AND HIMARI ARE...

POI (TOSS)
Huh? Is that you, snake? Knock it off! Put Yuu-chan on!!
THIS CELL PHONE'S OWNER IS CURRENTLY HEAVING AND HO-ING WHERE YOU'D NEVER EXPECT... YOU KNOW.
... HELLO, YOU KNOW.
RINGTONE
BEEEP-BEEEEP-BEEP-BEEP-BEEP-BEEP-BEEP-BEEP!
♪
BIKU (JUMP)
BUBUBUBU (VRRRRR)
Hold it right there!!
TH-THIS PHONE IS CURRENTLY OUT OF SERVICE. BEEEEEEP, BEEEEEEP!
GIN! (SHING)

JUST LOOKING AT YOUR FACE MAKES MY LEFT BREAST ACHE WHERE YOU SANK YOUR FANGS INTO ME.
GU (GRAB)
...FU HA.
IT IS AS THOUGH MY BODY RECOGNIZES YOU.
FU HA HA HA.
BASHA (SPLASH)
...AND ABOUT THE YOUNG LORD'S CHOSEN PATH AND MY RESOLVE.
DAY AFTER DAY, I HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT YOU AS ONE OF THE HIGHEST-RANKING DEMONS...
AFTER YOU FIRST APPEARED BEFORE US, YOU KEPT SENDING MESSEN-GERS TO DO YOUR WORK...

I WILL NOT LET THE YOUNG LORD REGRET HIS DECISION, NO MATTER HOW STRONG THE ENEMY NOR WHAT SOME PROPHETESS SAYS...
HYUN (SWOOSH)
IF I WERE TO WAVER, IT WOULD BE BECAUSE OF MY IMMATURITY.
I AM THE NOIHARA CRIMSON BLADE!
BY CUTTING YOU DOWN HERE AND NOW, I DECLARE AN END TO THAT IMMATURITY!!

HA!
SHA (SWISH)
BO
BO
KIN (GLINT)
BO (WHOOSH)
BA
BA
BAN
ZUBA (SLASH)
BAGYAN (SHATTERED)
...IF YOU ARE GOING TO DECLARE SOMETHING SO STRONGLY, THEN WHY ...?
OR WILL YOU NOT UNDERSTAND UNTIL I PULL YOUR ENTRAILS OUT...?
HIMARI...
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS WORRIES.
AT THIS RATE...
...BUT SHE'S REPELLED ALL OF HIMARI-SAN'S ATTACKS SO FAR.
IT'LL BE FINE. IF THE GOING GETS TOUGH, YUUTO-SAN WILL USE HIS YOU KNOW WHAT!
UH, RIGHT. THAT

GRANPA GEN!
FORGIVE ME, BUT I SHALL HAVE TO DISOBEY YOU!!
WAIT, YOUNG LORD. YOUR LIGHT FERRY IS OUR TRUMP CARD.
'TWOULD BE A WASTE TO USE IT ON A FRAGMENT LIKE HER.
...HMMM.
I TRIED USING MY SWORD ON HER, BUT IT FAILED TO WORK...
MY YASUTSUNA CAN CLEAVE ALL MANNER OF AYAKASHI EASILY, BUT...
I SUPPOSE THIS IS WHY THEY CALL THE NINE-TAILS ONE OF THE GREATEST.
HOW-EVER...

SFX: SU! (INHALE)
GRAND-PA...?
I DON'T WANT TO BE SCARED ANYMORE!
WH-WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
BON (BOOM)
Y-YUUTO, I'M COMING IN...UH...
WAAH!!
KARARA (RATTLE)
KIN (GLARE)

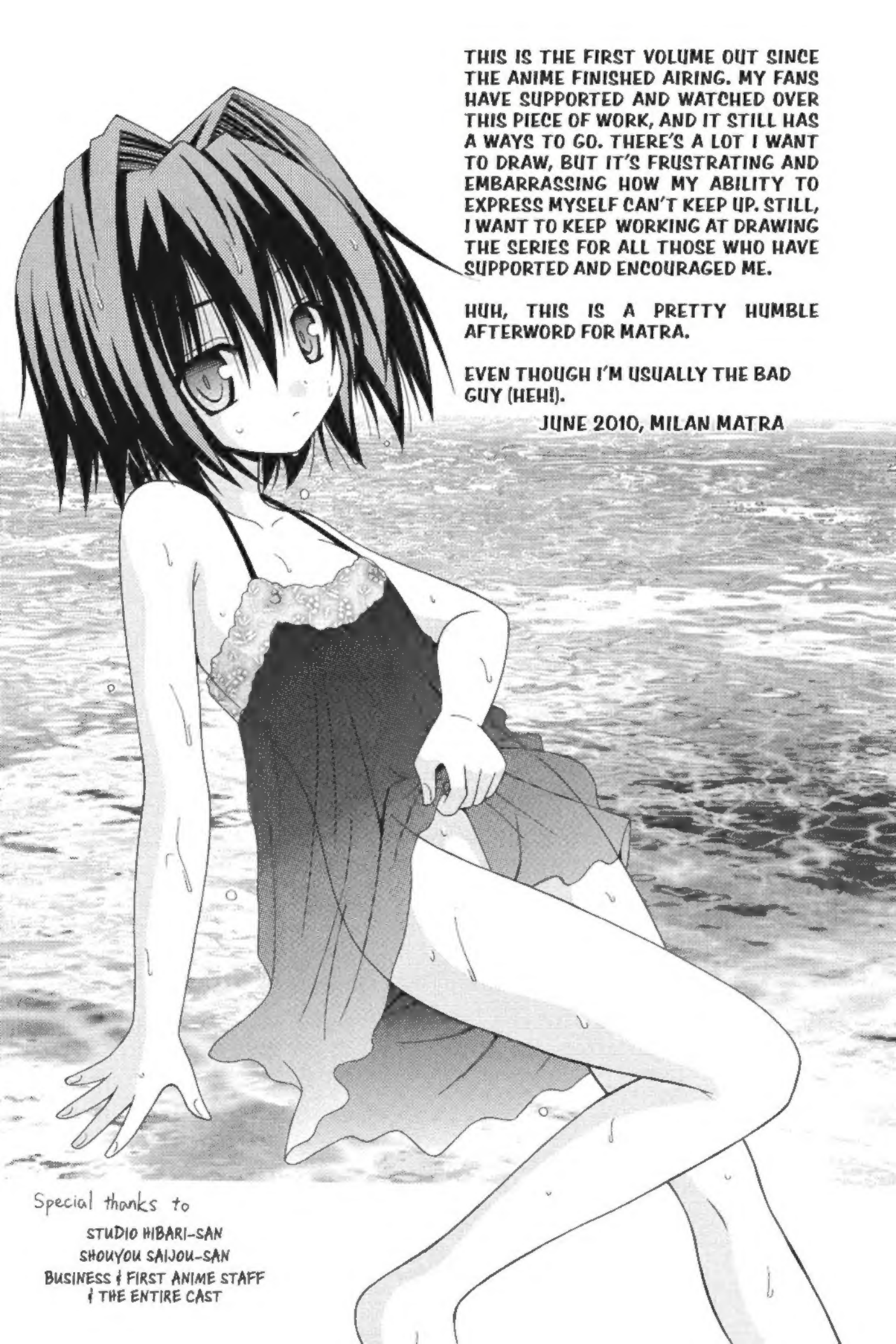
PASHI (SNAP)
HAAH (PANT)
WH-WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CAT PRINCESS...!?
SHE HAS UNLOCKED HER MAGICAL POWER... I THINK.
UNLOCKED HER MAGICAL POWER? LIKE LONG AGO, WHEN SHE SAVED ME AFTER I FELL OFF THAT CLIFF?
NO, IF SHE SAID SHE'S "DISOBEYING," IT MEANS...!!
HIMARI!!
OOOOO (WHOOOO)

DO NOT FRET, YOUNG LORD. ...THOUGH I KNOW 'TIS FUTILE TO SAY.
ONCE WE BECAME SERVANTS OF THE AMAKAWA, OUR METHOD OF FIGHTING, WHICH RELIES ON MAGICAL POWER, WAS PROHIBITED MORE AND MORE WITH EACH PASSING GENERATION.
THE REASON BEING... WELL, YOU UNDER-STAND, DO YOU NOT?
WH-WHAT'S SHE TALKING ABOUT?
DOES SHE MEAN 'COS SHE'LL TURN INTO A DEMON CAT WHO LUSTS FOR THE HUNT IN A BLIND RAGE...?
KURA (FAINT)
HOLD IT!!
PIKO (PERK)
PIKO
WH-WHOA THERE.
-SNIFFLE-
THERE IS SO MUCH I HAVE YET TO DO WITH YOU, YOUNG LORD.
FU-FU. I AM NOT ABOUT TO LOSE SELF-CONTROL IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.
HIMARI...

!
THAT WAS ALL I NEEDED TO HEAR.
GUSHU (SNIFFLE)
...I TRUST YOU, OKAY?
TON (TMP)
BASHU (WWOOSH)
GOOOOO (RUMBLE)
YOU'RE A COMPLICATED ONE.
...SO YOU'RE FINALLY WEARING YOUR MAGICAL ENERGY ON THE OUTSIDE.

THAT COMPLEXITY IS SYNONYMOUS WITH BEING HUMAN.
'TIS ESSENTIAL TO ME!
ZA (ZIP)
ZA
ZA
GAGI (SLISH)
...I WILL CRUSH YOU AND MAKE THOSE PEOPLE BEHIND YOU MY NOURISHMENT.
AND THEN YOU WILL—
COMPARED TO A HEAVENLY FOX OR AN AIR FOX, A SMALL-FRY, GARDEN-VARIETY FOX LIKE YOU HAS NO RIGHT TO TALK!!

TO BE CONTINUED



THIS IS THE FIRST VOLUME OUT SINCE THE ANIME FINISHED AIRING. MY FANS HAVE SUPPORTED AND WATCHED OVER THIS PIECE OF WORK, AND IT STILL HAS A WAYS TO GO. THERE'S A LOT I WANT TO DRAW, BUT IT'S FRUSTRATING AND EMBARRASSING HOW MY ABILITY TO EXPRESS MYSELF CAN'T KEEP UP. STILL, I WANT TO KEEP WORKING AT DRAWING THE SERIES FOR ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SUPPORTED AND ENCOURAGED ME.

HUH, THIS IS A PRETTY HUMBLE AFTERWORD FOR MATRA.

EVEN THOUGH I'M USUALLY THE BAD GUY (HEH!).

JUNE 2010, MILAN MATRA

Special thanks to

STUDIO HIBARI-SAN
SHOUYOU SAIJOU-SAN
BUSINESS & FIRST ANIME STAFF
& THE ENTIRE CAST

OMAMORI HIMARI 7

MILAN MATRA

Translation: Christine Dashiell • Lettering: Kelly Donovan

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OMAMORI HIMARI Volume 7 © MATRA MILAN 2010. Edited by FUJIMISHOBO. First published in 2010 by KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo. English translation rights arranged with KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo, through TUTTLE-MORI AGENCY, INC., Tokyo.

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Yen Press
Hachette Book Group
237 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017

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First Yen Press ebook Edition: May 2012

ebook ISBN: 978-0-316-22989-0

App ISBN: 978-0-316-21194-9